

THE STRAITS TIMES

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Double joy for grandmum's favourite day of the year

Toh Ting Wei

Madam Siah Choo Ing, 79, excitedly counts down to Chinese New Year Eve every year without fail.

"It is my favourite day of the year, better than my birthday and all the other occasions," the grandmother of four said in Mandarin. "It is our family tradition and the one event where the whole family comes together harmoniously to have a meal."

The office attendant had a reunion lunch yesterday with nine family members at Swatow Seafood restaurant in Toa Payoh. The family has had reunion dinners at the restaurant for the past four to five years.

Madam Siah said her family decided to have their reunion meals at restaurants as it saves them the hassle of preparing the food, adding that it also allows them to truly enjoy the festive atmosphere.

They had a reunion lunch this year as they were too late to get a table for dinner. But for the chirpy Madam Siah, the change came with a bonus.

"We still need to eat dinner

The Prime Minister wishes all Singaporeans a happy Chinese New Year.

The Straits Times wishes its readers a happy and prosperous Chinese New Year.

The Straits Times will not be published tomorrow.

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tonight, so my daughter is cooking a steamboat dinner for the family," she said. "I am very happy that we have two reunion meals together – I will be very full this year."

twtoh@sph.com.sg

SEE TOP OF THE NEWS A4, HOME B1, B4



Madam Siah Choo Ing (fourth from left), 79, tossing yusheng with (from left) her granddaughter Krystal Low, 17, daughter-in-law Katharine See, 50, son Kenny Low, 51, and daughter Irene Low, 52, during their reunion lunch at Swatow Seafood restaurant in Toa Payoh yesterday. ST PHOTO: LIM YAOHUI

Regional downturn dampens Singapore factory growth

PMI hits lowest reading in two years with dip of 0.4 point in fifth straight month of decline

Seow Bei Yi
Business Correspondent

The slowing manufacturing sector hit its lowest point in two years last month amid a general downturn across the region.

The key Purchasing Managers' Index (PMI) – a much-watched indicator of industrial activity – dipped 0.4 point to 50.7 from

December to last month.

This was its lowest reading since December 2016, when it was 50.6, and it was the fifth consecutive month of decline.

Although the 50.7 reading shows that the overall manufacturing sector is still expanding, there are distinct signs of weakness.

This is most notable in the key electronics segment. It contracted for a third straight month, with its

PMI sub-index slipping 0.2 point to 49.6, according to the Singapore Institute of Purchasing and Materials Management (SIPMM), which compiles the data.

It attributed January's lower overall reading in part to slower growth in new orders and new exports.

"Exports are already contracting, and the PMI suggests that manufacturing production could contract for the first half of this year," Maybank Kim Eng economist Chua Hak Bin told The Straits Times.

"Some kind of a trade deal between the United States and China is key to the outlook and to recovery. Barring some kind of compromise, I think manufacturing could be in for a prolonged recession, which may threaten to spread to the services side as well."

Around the region, China's factory activity contracted by the most in almost three years last month, and Taiwan posted its weakest readings since September 2015.

South Korea's PMI hit the joint-lowest since November 2016 and Indonesia logged its first contraction in a year, while Japan's factory activity was the slowest in 29 months.

The weak PMI readings reinforce expectations that central banks in

Asia will put on hold any further interest rate hikes. There is talk of possible rate cuts in countries such as China, Australia and India.

"Slower growth in overall manufacturing PMI and the sustained contraction pace in the electronics PMI are signs of a moderating economic growth in Singapore," said UOB economist Barnabas Gan, noting that overall manufacturing growth here of 7.5 per cent last year was relatively high compared with the average growth of 2.7 per cent from 2013 to 2017.

"Global growth moderation, a global tech cycle slowdown as well as further uncertainties surrounding US-China trade tensions could further dampen Singapore's overall growth momentum, exports and eventually manufacturing activity in 2019," said Mr Gan.

Dr Chua added that the electronics sector is more cyclical than others such as pharmaceuticals, making it a good barometer of where global demand is headed.

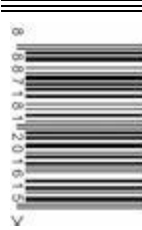
"Collapsing global electronics demand seems to be a warning sign,"

Dr Chua said. "Even if there is a tariff ceasefire, the US-China war on technology will probably continue, although it may take the form of other barriers, including export controls or foreign direct investment restrictions, which could still hurt the demand for tech goods."

The SIPMM said anecdotal evidence suggests electronics manufacturers remain "cautiously optimistic of improved prospects".

The weak reading for the sector was attributed to a first-time contraction in new orders, new exports and employment, as well as a second-time contraction in factory output, it added.

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United Overseas Bank Limited Co. Reg. No. 193500026Z (February 2019)

1 Australia battles floods

A group of people are being rescued from a flooded street. Two rescuers in yellow wetsuits and helmets are guiding a yellow inflatable boat carrying several people. The water is murky and the street is completely submerged. In the background, a blue car is parked on the flooded road, and a person is walking in the distance. The scene is framed by blurred yellow objects in the foreground, possibly part of another rescue team's gear.

Queensland Fire and Emergency Services crew members using an inflatable boat to pull residents through floodwaters in Hermit Park, Townsville. PHOTO: DPA

2 Factory growth slows

4 Dual roles in Indonesia?

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9 Every game tough, says Pep

PHOTO: EPA-EFF

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VIDEO

Festive harvest

Every morning, volunteers gather on the roof of an HDB block in Jurong East to tend to a variety of vegetables and plants. The group recently celebrated its harvest together to mark Chinese New Year.
<http://str.sg/CNYharvest>



VIDEO

VIDEO

CNY-inspired fashion

Luxury fashion brands have been eyeing the lucrative Chinese market for the Year of the Pig. Here are some items that may interest you this Chinese New Year.
<http://str.sg/hogtogs>

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Christopher Tan, The Straits Times, 19 January 2019

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More cars on the road, even as total number of vehicles falls

This is despite smaller supply of COEs; taxi and private-hire car numbers down

Christopher Tan
Senior Transport Correspondent

The number of privately owned cars registered last year saw unusual growth despite a smaller supply of certificates of entitlement (COEs), and as Singapore's vehicle population shrank to a two-year low.

The latest figures released by the Land Transport Authority showed that the total vehicle population dipped by 0.5 per cent to 957,006, the lowest since 2016.

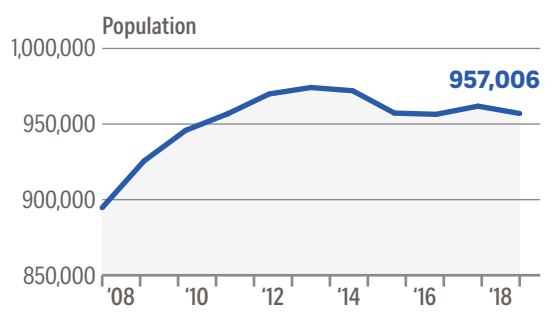
This was largely on the back of a drop in the numbers for taxis and private-hire cars, as well as fewer motorcycles.

The taxi fleet has shrunk to 20,581 – its lowest in more than 10 years – because of competition from private-hire cars. Private-hire car numbers dwindled due to American ride-hailing firm Uber's exit in March last year and rules requiring drivers to attend a course and obtain a licence.

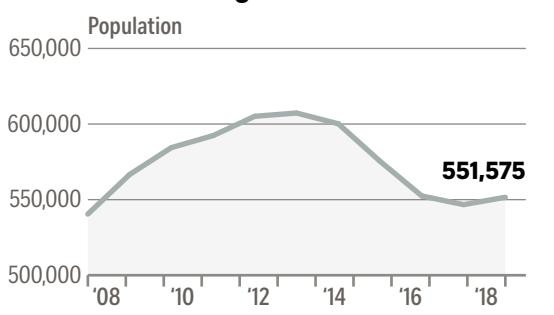
The motorcycle population was likely to have been impacted by the

Total motor vehicles

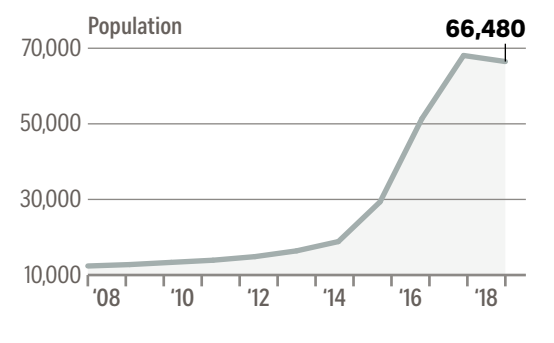
All vehicles



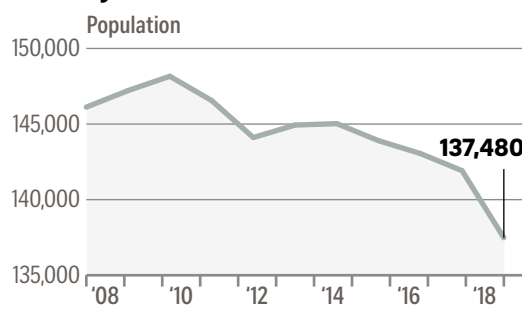
Cars & station wagons



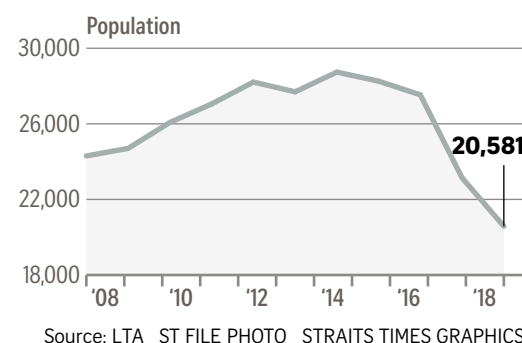
Private-hire cars



Motorcycles & scooters



Taxis



Source: LTA ST FILE PHOTO STRAITS TIMES GRAPHICS

National Environment Agency's offer of \$3,500 for riders to scrap their older vehicles.

Singapore Motorcycle Trade Association vice-president Norman Lee said the dwindling motorcycle population was a "result of past

policies", such as motorcycle COEs contributing to the Open COE quota until 2017. Open COEs are secured almost exclusively by car bidders, so motorcycles lose a portion of their COE supply – which eventually influences motorcycle

population – year by year.

But the passenger car population grew by 0.9 per cent to 551,575 last year despite fewer COEs. The COE quota for cars contracted by 7 per cent last year.

Industry watchers reckon this

had to do with Uber's exit and with it, the halt to an aggressive private-hire fleet expansion. As a result, car COEs previously soaked up by Uber and other private-hire firms all went to individual car buyers.

LTA statistics seem to bear this

out, as this was the first growth in car numbers since Uber and Grab made their debut here in 2013.

Mr Ron Lim, head of sales and marketing at Nissan agent Tan Chong Motor, said the phenomenon could also be due to more people holding on to their older cars.

The number of COE revalidations – extending the lifespan of a COE's 10-year tenure by paying a prevailing quota premium – for last year is expected to hit a record of some 37,000, up from around 31,000 in 2017. The LTA has not yet completed the tally for revalidations last December.

Mr Lim observed that the majority of revalidations were for five years (instead of 10), and this will mitigate the cyclical drop in COE supply in the coming years.

Rightfully, the number of revalidations should not result in more cars on the road because more revalidations would result in fewer COEs (supply hinges on the number of vehicles deregistered or scrapped).

But motor traders said because there is a lag of up to several months between the time a car is deregistered and its replacement COE is used to register a new vehicle, population anomalies can occur.

Nanyang Business School adjunct associate professor Zafar Momin noted that there were more registrations than deregistrations for the year. "This was the main reason that the car population for private cars went up despite a tight supply of COEs," he said. "For almost all other categories of vehicles, deregistrations were in line or higher than registrations."

Singapore University of Social Sciences transport researcher Park Byung Joon said that relatively low COE prices last year may have contributed to the latest car population figures. "More people found that cars were affordable," he said. "2018 was a good year to buy cars."

christan@sph.com.sg

GRATEFUL

Many of us will join our families for a sumptuous reunion dinner tonight. But for the Police Coast Guard, the work of patrolling our waters continues 24/7. This is a duty that never ceases, and I am grateful for their service so that the rest of us can enjoy a peaceful and safe Chinese New Year.



PRIME MINISTER LEE HSIEN LOONG, giving out Chinese New Year goodies to officers from the Police Coast Guard (PCG) on board a coastal patrol craft at the PCG Brani Base.



PM Lee thanks Police Coast Guard for constant vigilance

Prime Minister Lee Hsien Loong visited the Police Coast Guard headquarters on Pulau Brani yesterday morning, the eve of Chinese New Year.

PM Lee, with Home Affairs Minister K. Shanmugam, went on board a coastal patrol craft and welcomed officers returning from their night shift of patrolling Singapore's waters.

During his visit, PM Lee also handed out Chinese New Year goodies and thanked the officers

for their constant vigilance.

In a Facebook post yesterday, he wrote: "Many of us will join our families for a sumptuous reunion dinner tonight."

"But for the Police Coast Guard, the work of patrolling our waters continues 24/7. This is a duty that never ceases, and I am grateful for their service so that the rest of us can enjoy a peaceful and safe Chinese New Year."

Adrian Lim



Prime Minister Lee Hsien Loong on the jetty at PCG Brani Base yesterday morning. He was accompanied by Mrs Lee and Home Affairs Minister K. Shanmugam. ST PHOTOS: MARK CHEONG

Multiracial CNY celebrations true to S'pore spirit: President Halimah

It is that time of the year for Chinese families to strengthen ties, and in multiracial Singapore, it is also an opportunity for other races to enjoy the warmth and hospitality of their Chinese friends and neighbours.

In a Chinese New Year video message posted on her Facebook page yesterday, President Halimah Yacob said the fact that the celebrations here also commonly embrace those of other races is "true to the Singapore spirit".

President Halimah added: "Lunar New Year is special to our Chinese community. It is a time when families bond together and strengthen their ties – a wonderful tradition, passed from generation to generation, helping to remind our young of the importance of the family."

"True to the Singapore spirit, it is common for the Lunar New Year celebrations to also embrace the other races, who get to enjoy the warmth and hospitality of their Chinese neighbours and friends."

The President said she is looking forward to meeting visitors at the Istana Open House tomorrow. In celebration of Chinese New Year, the grounds of the Istana will be open from 8.30am to 6pm.

President Halimah will also launch the Istana 150 Souvenir Series of Medallions and FlashPay cards during the open house, in commemoration of the 150th anniversary of the presidential residence.

The souvenir series is a collaboration between the Istana and The Singapore Mint, and comprises a range of exclusive silver medallions and card products featuring the architecture of the buildings in the Istana compound and significant features of the Istana.

Concluding her message, the President delivered three greetings in Mandarin: "xīn nián kuài lè" (happy new year), "shēng tǐ jiàn kāng" (good health) and "wàn shì rú yì" (good luck in everything).

Adrian Lim

In celebration of Chinese New Year, the grounds of the Istana will be open from 8.30am to 6pm (tomorrow).

SCGS student diagnosed with TB; classmates told to get checked

Salma Khalik
Senior Health Correspondent

A student at Singapore Chinese Girls' School (SCGS) has been diagnosed with tuberculosis (TB) and some of her classmates have been told to go for screening in case they have also caught the infectious disease.

The Secondary 4 girl stopped attending classes at the Bukit Timah school on Tuesday last week. Her classmates disinfected the classroom and other girls in the school

were told not to enter the room.

An irate parent said she was told only on Friday evening that her daughter might be at risk of TB because of her close contact with the infected girl.

She called her daughter's teacher to learn more, but the teacher was not aware of any student with TB.

The parent thought it was a prank until she received an e-mail from one of the school's vice-principals at about 11pm on Friday telling her that her daughter needs to be screened for TB.

The e-mail said: "We have been

informed by the MOH (Ministry of Health) that a person in SCGS has recently been diagnosed with tuberculosis. Your daughter has been identified by MOH as one of those who had close contact with the person."

It came with a form telling the parent to book an appointment for her daughter with the Tuberculosis Control Unit in Moulmein Road between yesterday and Feb 23.

The parent, who asked not to be named, said she found it strange as the infected girl is not a close friend of her daughter's. She also

noted that only some of the girls in the same class were asked to go for screening, and others had not been told.

She asked why there has been so much secrecy to the extent that even the form teacher was unaware that a student had been diagnosed with the disease, when other students were being asked to check whether they had caught it.

"At the onset of this TB case, the school was uncontactable and the persons we could reach had no information," she added. "There is no open channel for communication.

Not all the girls in the same class were called up for screening, either. That leaves me wondering what their selection criteria is."

Attempts by The Straits Times to contact the school were not successful as it was open for only half the day on the eve of Chinese New Year.

TB is spread through tiny droplets released into the air when an infected person coughs, sneezes, spits, laughs or talks.

Singapore gets about four new cases a day. Last year, there were more than 1,450 diagnosed, although the number has been falling

over the years. There were more than 1,500 new cases in 2017 and about 1,600 in 2016.

Not everyone who gets the TB bacteria gets sick. For many, the bug remains dormant for years and the person is not contagious.

People with latent TB who get treatment can significantly reduce the progression to active TB. The vast majority of those with active TB can also be cured. Left untreated, it can be fatal.

Symptoms experienced by someone with active TB include a cough that lasts for weeks, as well as coughing up blood, chest pain when breathing or coughing, tiredness, fever, night sweats and a loss of appetite or weight.

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Radicalised maid working in S'pore reported by employer

Woman was one of five Indonesian maids who were recently repatriated for supporting armed violence

Hariz Baharudin

It was an alert employer who reported her radicalised maid to the Internal Security Department after noticing the Indonesian national frequently viewing violent material on her mobile phone, The Straits Times learnt.

The maid was one of five Indonesian domestic workers who were recently repatriated when it was discovered that they had supported armed violence.

A Ministry of Home Affairs (MHA) spokesman said the maid's employer had been sensitised to the issue of radicalisation after reading about similar cases involving domestic workers.

"She became concerned when her domestic worker started to display changes in behaviour after working for her for a year," said the spokesman.

"Specifically, the employer noticed the domestic worker frequently viewed materials which depicted violence on her mobile phone, such as social media images of masked, armed men in military fatigues."

MHA, which did not provide the maid's details, said that she supported armed violence in conflict zones such as Syria, Palestine and Myanmar, and had befriended several pro-militant persons online whom she admired.

The maid also mistakenly be-

lieved that they would die as martyrs in these conflict zones, and wanted to travel there as well.

Investigations showed that the maid had become radicalised after viewing videos of foreign extremist preachers and other radical material online.

While she did not have any plans to carry out acts of violence here, MHA said that the employer's actions had allowed for early intervention and "neutralisation of a potential threat to Singapore".

The latest Singapore Terrorism Threat Assessment Report on Jan 22 showed that since 2015, Singapore had repatriated 14 foreign maids who were radicalised.

Responding to The Straits Times' queries, MHA said that the five maids recently repatriated had worked here for periods ranging from several months to four years. They were all radicalised through social media.

The maids, aged between 27 and 40, were repatriated to Indonesia between July 2017 and June last year.

Touching on the five recent cases, MHA said: "One of them was an ISIS (Islamic State in Iraq and Syria) supporter who harboured the intention to travel to Syria to join ISIS. The other four did not expressly support ISIS, but supported the use of armed violence in overseas conflict zones such as Syria, Palestine and Myanmar."

At the time of the investigation, MHA said, none of the five maids

had any plans to carry out acts of violence here.

Based on when the five maids were employed here, analysts said, some of them may not have attended a counter-terrorism component of the mandatory settling-in programme for all foreign domestic workers.

The counter-terrorism component, jointly developed by MHA and the Ministry of Manpower (MOM), was added two years ago to the programme that teaches workers about work safety, conditions of employment and stress and relationship management.

A spokesman for MOM said: "We had in July 2017 worked through the employers to help raise awareness of their foreign domestic workers on this issue, by sending employers an advisory with messages on saying no to extremism and keeping Singapore safe and secure."

Maids learn about how radical ideology may be spread in person as well as online, and what to do should they encounter such at-

tempts at radicalisation. Among other things, they are told to alert their employers.

MOM also has in place a similar programme for work permit holders in the construction sector.

Mr Remy Mahzam of the S. Rajaratnam School of International Studies said modules on counter-terrorism can go hand in hand with efforts to make sure these workers feel a sense of belonging here.

This is because the extreme emotions of some people who join extremist groups are fuelled by grievances, political helplessness and loneliness, added Mr Mahzam, who is an associate research fellow at the International Centre for Political Violence and Terrorism Research.

"There is definitely a need to amplify efforts to educate these foreign workers on the dangers of extremist rhetoric and how they can play a part to counter extremism among their fellow comrades," he said.

As at June last year, there were 250,000 foreign domestic workers in Singapore. In its latest threat report, MHA said that radicalisation among foreign workers here continues to persist.

In addition to the 14 radicalised foreign domestic workers repatriated since 2015, MHA said three Malaysian work permit holders were arrested and repatriated last year for suspected involvement in terrorism-related activities.

In 2016, eight Bangladeshi men working in Singapore were detained under the Internal Security Act for planning to stage terror attacks back home.

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Spotting signs of radicalisation

The Ministry of Home Affairs (MHA) said that when a person adopts extreme political, religious or social views, they could be radicalised over time and may even want to engage in terrorist activities.

Possible signs of radicalisation include:

- Expressing the belief that violence is justified;
- Idolising, showing support for or sympathising with terrorists and their causes;
- Trying to influence others to support terrorism and/or participate in terrorist activity; and
- Displaying insignia or symbols in support of terrorist groups.

Family, friends and those in close proximity are often the first to notice these behavioural changes.

MHA said that family members and friends should try their best to counsel such persons, and they should not hesitate to alert the authorities if they are unable to rein them in.

"By reporting them to the authorities early, you could help them get proper guidance and counselling so that they can be steered away from the path of radicalisation.

"They may not need to be severely dealt with under the law," added MHA.

If you know or suspect that a person is radicalised, you should call the ISD Counter-Terrorism Centre hotline on 1800-2626-473.

Hariz Baharudin

14

Number of radicalised foreign domestic workers who have been repatriated since 2015.



Above: Kammah Pae is said to have conspired with the two Indonesian suicide bombers who carried out twin blasts at the Cathedral of Our Lady of Mount Carmel on Jolo Island on Jan 27. He provided them with shelter and escorted them around the island.

Left: Philippine soldiers in the damaged area of the cathedral. The bomb blasts killed 23 people and wounded more than 100. PHOTOS: PHILIPPINE NATIONAL POLICE AGENCE FRANCE-PRESSE

Top suspect in deadly Philippine church bombings surrenders

Raul Dancel
Philippines Correspondent
In Manila

A man suspected of helping two suicide bombers carry out the deadly twin blasts on the small Philippine island of Jolo has surrendered, security officials announced yesterday.

Kammah Pae and four other supposed operatives of the Abu Sayyaf – a gang of self-styled Muslim militants that has pledged allegiance to the Islamic State in Iraq and Syria (ISIS) – turned themselves in at the weekend, director-general Oscar Albayalde, the national police chief, told a news conference.

Kammah is said to have conspired with the Indonesian couple who blew themselves up minutes apart, one inside and the other outside a Roman Catholic cathedral on tiny Jolo Island, in the largely Muslim province of Sulu, on war-torn Mindanao Island, on Jan 27.

The explosions killed 23 people and wounded more than 100.

"This was a plain act of terror... to get funds from ISIS. They want to gain international notoriety... so ISIS will funnel funds to them," said Mr Albayalde.

He said the Indonesians sailed south-west to Jolo from Lampinigan island, in Basilan province, on Jan 24. They were in Lampinigan

"for a few days".

Mr Albayalde said the male suspect, identified by his *nom de guerre* Abu Hud, had been in Mindanao for about a year, while the woman arrived days before the attack.

It could not be ascertained whether they travelled to the Philippines directly from Indonesia.

For three days, Kammah provided the Indonesian couple with shelter and escorted them around the island, where the two met Hatib Sawadjaan, the purported ring-leader of the Ajang-ajang faction of the Abu Sayyaf.

The Indonesians were taken to Jolo's main town late on Jan 26. The following day, around 8.30am, both

set off pipe bombs hidden inside bags that tore across the Cathedral of Our Lady of Mount Carmel.

Mr Albayalde said Sawadjaan and his Ajang-ajang cohorts had plotted the attack for "almost a year".

He said security forces were still hunting 14 more suspects, including Sawadjaan and another Indonesian.

Sawadjaan is the father-in-law of Malaysian militant Amin Baco.

Baco, who has had lengthy experience fighting a guerilla war in Sulu, was once rumoured to have been designated as ISIS' "emir" in South-east Asia, replacing Isnilon Hapilon, the Abu Sayyaf chieftain killed in the five-month siege in 2017 of the southern city of Marawi.

Kammah is purportedly the brother of Surakah Ingog, a slain Abu Sayyaf fighter.

"Ajang-ajang" is an ethnic term in Sulu that means "sons of warriors" or "sons of martyrs".

Before the cathedral bombings, the Ajang-ajang had acted as low-level enforcers of the Abu Sayyaf.

It had never ventured out of Jolo,

and mostly stuck to extortion, drug dealing and spotting hostages for the Abu Sayyaf.

The probe into the bombings has been fraught with inconsistent and sometimes contradictory accounts from the authorities.

Security officials had initially said the two bombs were remotely detonated. But that changed after President Rodrigo Duterte said it may have been a suicide bomber, a view supported by Defence Secretary Delfin Lorenzana.

Meanwhile, citing information provided by witnesses and undisclosed sources, Interior Secretary Eduardo Ano said he was certain an Indonesian couple were behind the attack.

"They are Indonesians," Mr Ano, a former military chief, told CNN Philippines. "I am certain that they are Indonesians."

The aim, he said, was to foment sectarian conflict in Mindanao, which covers a third of the Philippines and is home to most of the country's Muslim population.

The attack came nearly a week after more than 1.5 million Muslims overwhelmingly approved a more powerful autonomous region in Mindanao.

They voted for the new, self-administered region called "Bangsamoro", or nation of Moros, in hopes of ending nearly five decades of a separatist rebellion and reigning in a new wave of Islamist extremism sweeping Mindanao.

Voters in Sulu, however, rejected it. Still, the province will be included in the new Bangsamoro region, as it is part of the Autonomous Region in Muslim Mindanao, which as a bloc voted overwhelmingly in favour of the Bangsamoro law.

That has raised fears of reprisals by militant groups such as the Abu Sayyaf, who are opposed to any peace deal with the government and opt instead to embrace ISIS' wider agenda to establish a "caliphate" in South-east Asia.

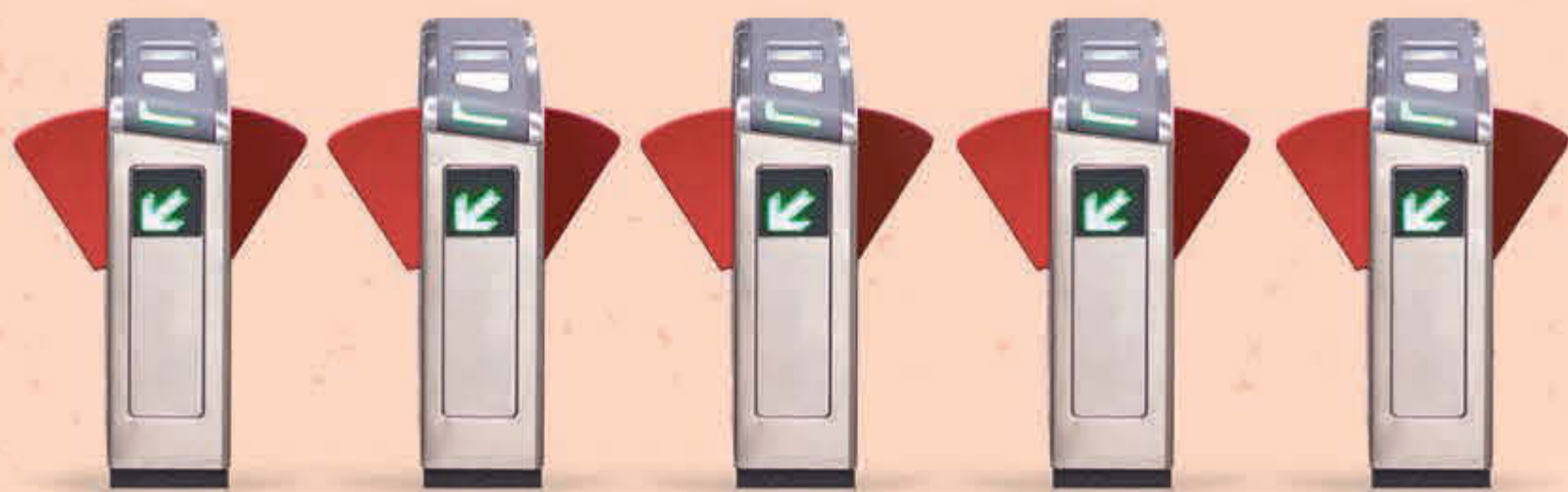
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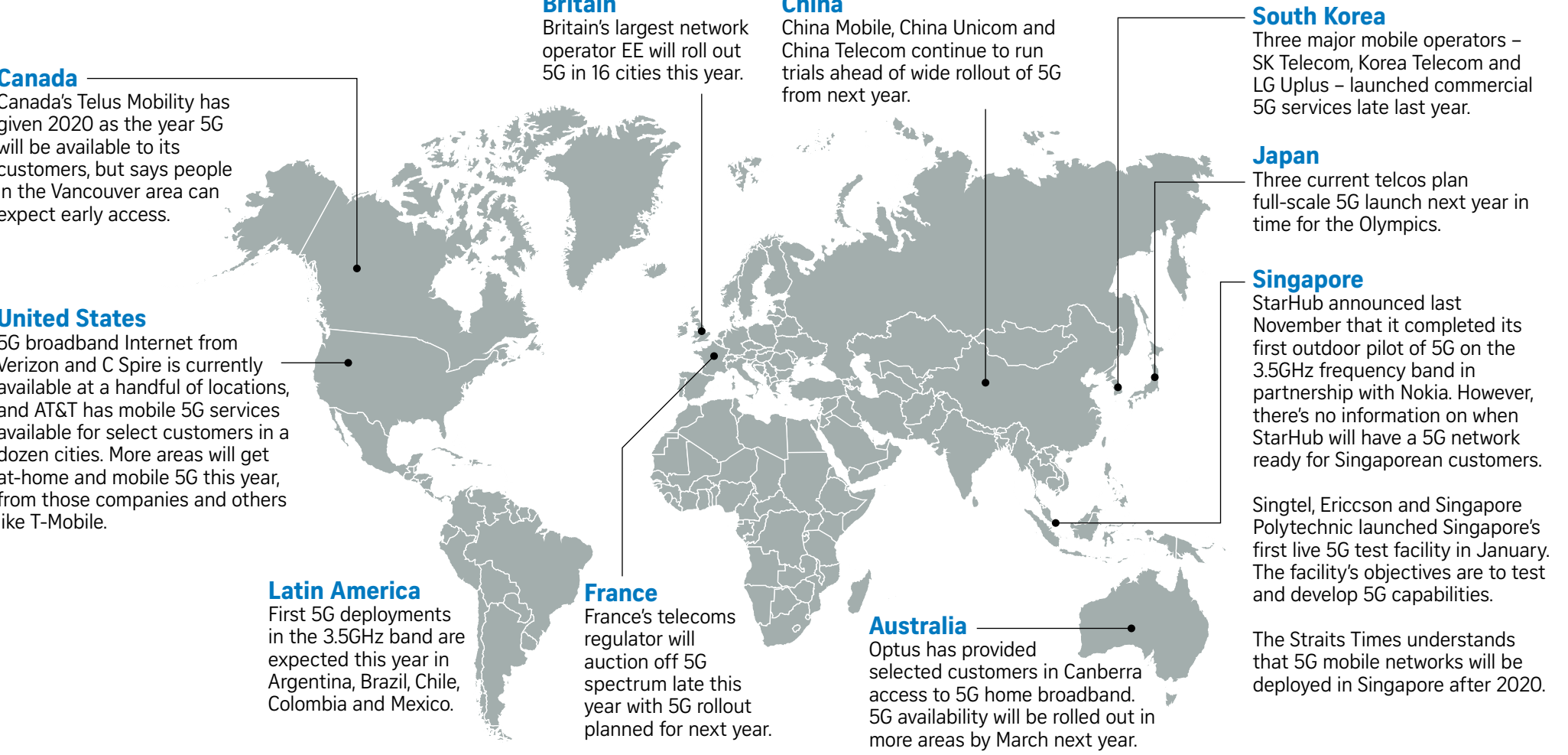
Huawei and the 5G revolution

5G will soon be launched in Singapore, elsewhere in Asia and beyond, promising a revolution in connectivity speeds, new entertainment options and new applications, such as driverless cars. But the technology has proven controversial over fears of data security. The Straits Times looks deeper into where things stand with 5G and which technology vendors could be the winners.

5G: The progress so far

4G entered the market in the late 2000s and made mobile Internet speeds up to 500 times faster than 3G. The increased speed supported HD video streaming, cloud services, high-quality video calls and faster Web browsing. This year and next year, 5G should start rolling out all over the world and consumers will soon be able to enjoy data speeds of up to 100 gigabits per second. That's 1,000 times faster than 4G.

5G ADOPTION AROUND THE WORLD



DIFFERENCES BETWEEN 5G AND 4G

Speed
5G can reach transfer speeds of up to 100 gigabits per second, which is as much as 1,000 times faster than 4G. A 20GB file can be downloaded in one second.

Supports more connections
5G uses a broad range of frequencies. The millimetre wave bands (30GHz to 300GHz range) are less cluttered with existing cellular data. 5G can support 1,000 devices per metre.

Smarter networks
5G can understand the type of data being requested and switch automatically to using the appropriate power mode to deliver that data. Higher-powered mode will be used for HD video streaming for example.

Latency
5G latency is much lower than 4G. Consumers can expect immediate response to video calling, streaming, online gaming and other mission-critical applications.

Less wireless interference
5G frequencies are highly directional. This means more strategically placed antennas are required to support 5G. Highly directional frequencies allow devices to be used next to other wireless signals without causing interference.

Challenges
As with any new technology, security has to be figured out to prevent spying. Government and Internet service providers must ensure sufficient levels of security are in place before 5G can be rolled out.

Source: JUST ASK GEMALTO, LIFEWIRE, HARDWAREZONE STRAITS TIMES GRAPHICS

Diversity is the name of the game here

Vincent Chang

The pushback against Chinese telecoms equipment giant Huawei will have little impact on Singapore telcos, analysts say.

The three major telcos here – Singtel, StarHub and M1 – also said that they work with multiple vendors and not just Huawei in building their 5G networks.

Telcos are encouraged to “ensure vendor diversity to mitigate risks (including cyber-security risks) from dependency on any one vendor”, a spokesman for the Infocomm Media Development Authority (IMDA) told The Straits Times.

“Operators should ensure that the performance and reliability of equipment purchased from vendors meet their commercial operational needs and regulatory requirements, including those pertaining to quality of service, resilience and security,” he said.

IMDA is working closely with the Cyber Security Agency of Singapore to ensure that telecommunications networks are secure, he added.

In recent months, Huawei, the world's largest telecom equipment provider, has come under increasing scrutiny over its ties to the Chinese government.

The United States has urged its allies to reconsider using Huawei's equipment in next-generation 5G mobile networks amid concerns that Beijing could tap Huawei's equipment for espionage.

The European Union is considering proposals to exclude Huawei's equipment from 5G mobile networks, Reuters reported.

The pressure on Huawei went up a notch last week after its chief financial officer Meng Wanzhou, daughter of founder Ren Zhengfei, was charged by the US government with defrauding banks to evade sanctions on Iran.

But analysts interviewed said

that the resulting impact on local telcos is likely to be minimal.

Analyst Kenny Liew of Fitch Solutions, which offers credit and macro intelligence solutions, said in an e-mail that he believed that local telcos would not be affected.

He noted that whether local telcos use Huawei equipment or not depends on the telcos themselves or the Government.

“Singapore is very close to China's orbit, so it is unlikely to act on Huawei in order to avoid a potential backlash. While it also has to balance relations with the US, inaction on Huawei is the most likely outcome,” he said.

Mr Liew added that the allegations of cyber espionage by Huawei have yet to be substantiated.

OCBC Investment Research analyst Joseph Ng said that the Huawei backlash will have a limited impact in Singapore, but did not elaborate.

Mr Stephane Teral, director at market research firm IHS Markit, said the pushback against Huawei is “not too bad” as it only “affects Australia, Japan and New Zealand in the region”. These American allies have all banned the use of Huawei equipment.

But an analyst with a local bank who did not wish to be named told The Straits Times that local telcos may have to buy more from European equipment vendors.

“The pricing in the past has not been hugely different between Chinese and European vendors, particularly with operators of a larger scale. The premium may partly re-emerge with less competition (given the pushback against Huawei),” he said.

Of the major telcos here, M1 has previously held trials using Huawei's 5G equipment. It was reported in June last year that both companies intend to hold more trials jointly in South-east Asia by the middle of this year.



Singapore Polytechnic students showcasing their SP Driverless and Electrifying Car project at last month's launch of 5G Garage – a facility set up at the polytechnic by Singtel and Ericsson to test and develop 5G projects. PHOTO: SINGTEL

M1 declined to comment when asked whether it is going ahead with the Huawei trials slated for this year. The telco said it had also embarked on early 5G trials with Nokia last year.

StarHub, which conducted 5G trials with Nokia last year, said that it is closely monitoring the developments related to Huawei's 5G equipment.

Singtel has partnered Ericsson for its 5G pilot network at one-north.

In response, a Huawei spokesman said it firmly believes that its partners and customers “will make the right choice based on their own judgment and experience of working with Huawei”. He added

that “everything is on track” here, without giving any details.

Australia's TPG Telecom – which won the licence to be Singapore's fourth telco in 2016 and launched a trial of its mobile service in Singapore this year – recently abandoned plans to build a mobile network in Australia using Huawei's equipment.

Meanwhile, Mr Allen Lew, chief executive officer of Singtel's wholly owned Australian telco Optus, said that the firm “did it without Huawei” when it rolled out limited 5G services in Canberra and Sydney on Jan 31.

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Ongoing efforts to roll out service

5G services in Singapore will be available only after 2020, The Straits Times understands, with 5G standards expected to be finalised at the World Radio-communication Conference in October this year.

But local telcos plan to conduct more intensive 5G trials this year involving autonomous vehicles, drones and Internet of Things devices, which benefit from the improved capacity and speed of 5G networks and their low latency, or delay. The Infocomm Media Development Authority, which first waived airwave fees for 5G trials in May 2017, will offer the waiver until the end of this year.

A StarHub trial last November used Nokia's 5G technology, together with StarHub's existing 4G network, to deliver higher speeds and low latency. High-resolution videos were streamed to virtual-reality headsets without any lag.

In the same trial, StarHub also demonstrated an unnamed industrial application, which used 5G-enabled video analytics to detect production errors in a manufacturing setting.

Game-streaming platforms can also benefit from 5G networks, which offer ultra-low latency in the range of 1 millisecond to 2 milliseconds compared with tens of milliseconds for 4G. This difference is crucial for the budding game-streaming platform developed by local firm Cloudzen to stream high-quality games on demand to smartphones.

Cloudzen was a participant at the launch last month of 5G Garage, a test facility set up at Singapore Polytechnic by Singtel and Ericsson to test and develop 5G projects. Its cloud-streamed games ran smoothly using a 5G network compared with the stuttering and freezing on a 4G network.

The facility is connected to Singtel's 5G pilot network deployed at the one-north hub in November last year.

The 5G network has been used to test the flying of drones and cloud gaming. It was also used to make Singapore's first 5G data call last November.

Last June, M1 conducted live streaming of 360-degree virtual-reality content at its MiWorld building in Jurong. The telco said 5G networks can stream bandwidth-intensive virtual-reality content to students in a classroom to create a more immersive learning experience. This would be challenging over existing 4G networks.

Vincent Chang

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Huawei and the 5G revolution

Race for 5G domination

Lim Yan Liang
China Correspondent
In Beijing
and Claire Huang
Hong Kong Correspondent

Despite its industry champions' legal woes in the West, China has exploded off the starting blocks in the race to be the world leader in next-generation 5G technology.

Last December, Beijing approved 5G test frequency licences for its three major telcos, setting the stage for large-scale 5G tests nationwide this year.

And last Tuesday, state planners said Beijing will increase support for TV stations to push out ultra-high-definition (UHD) content, while subsidising virtual reality and augmented reality devices – areas that will drive 5G adoption.

Even before this, China's "big three" operators – China Mobile, China Telecom and China Unicom – had already launched 5G pilots and demonstration zones in 50 cities, while domestic network equipment providers Huawei and ZTE said they had completed final trials and were ready for scaling up and commercialisation.

Huawei and ZTE have been the target of American legal action in recent years, and a growing number of United States allies such as Australia and Japan have also banned the two companies from government contracts.

But the two Chinese technology giants are thriving at home, as the country zips ahead in 5G roll-out.

Huawei, for instance, launched

last month what it billed as industry-leading 5G chips, both for commercial base stations and consumer products such as smartphones and routers. Its executives said then that Huawei's equipment is being used in more than 30 field trials across 17 provinces.

While 5G will not be directly available to most consumers in China for at least a year, China has been experimenting with the technology in different ways, such as driverless vehicle trials in Chongqing and remote surgery in Fujian province.

In Hong Kong, officials have proposed not charging for the use of 5G radio frequencies, which they said will cut costs and speed up network launches in the territory.

So far, HKT, the largest mobile player in Hong Kong, and Huawei have announced that they are deploying an all-fibre mobile network architecture on a new Mass Transit Railway line, which will enable all mobile operators in the territory to offer 5G services.

The infrastructure can support 5G networks without the need for additional cabling throughout the 10 stations of the new line, which connects Hong Kong Island and the New Territories.

Industry experts have predicted that China will become the world's largest 5G market.

GSMA, an association of mobile operators worldwide, projected last year that China will account for 430 million 5G connections by 2025, one-third of the global total.

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China's "big three" operators – China Mobile, China Telecom and China Unicom – had already launched 5G pilots and demonstration zones in 50 cities, while domestic network equipment providers Huawei and ZTE said they had completed final trials and were ready for scaling up and commercialisation.

No fears in Thailand, Philippines but Malaysia studying the risks

Tan Hui Yee
Indochina Bureau Chief
Raul Dancel
Philippines Correspondent
and Trinna Leong
Malaysia Correspondent

Fears of espionage over the use of 5G technology from Chinese firms Huawei and ZTE have not gripped major South-east Asian economies as hard as it has in the West.

In Thailand, Asean's second-largest economy, Huawei is a key partner in the government's ambition to turn an area east of Bangkok into a hub of digital innovation.

In 2017, Huawei launched Open Lab Bangkok, which provides information communications support for start-ups and enterprises. This is its biggest laboratory outside of China.

Huawei is committing about 160 million baht (\$6.9 million) in a government-driven 5G test bed in Sri Racha, a coastal town in Chonburi province, where experiments involving 360-degree augmented reality content, remote driving and smart buses will be conducted.

"Thailand was the logical choice for Huawei because of its promising economic outlook conducive for the thriving of macro and micro eco-

nomic activities," Mr Liu Jingyang, Huawei's senior public relations manager for South-east Asia, told The Straits Times. "Huawei also enjoys the solid support of the public and private sectors."

In the run-up to deliver its 5G equipment to Sri Racha on Friday, Huawei teamed up with Thailand's Digital Economy and Society Ministry last week and ran a seminar showcasing its 5G capabilities.

The kingdom's biggest telecommunications companies are developing their own 5G capabilities: Advanced Info Service is working with equipment supplier Nokia, while TrueMove has teamed up with Huawei.

In the Philippines, the telecommunications duopoly, comprising Smart Communications and Globe Telecom, is using hardware from Huawei as the companies race to roll out 5G wireless network services by the first half of this year.

In November, Smart fired up its first 5G station at the sprawling Clark economic zone, a former US military base two hours north of the capital Manila.

Clark will be a testing ground for commercial 5G applications such as autonomous vehicles and connected fleets.

Acting Information and Communications Technology Secretary Eliseo Rio told senators in November that up to 80 per cent of the equipment Smart and Globe use in their networks already come from Huawei, but assured them that safeguards were in place.

Several senators raised a red flag at a 20 billion peso (\$5517 million) surveillance system in metropolitan Manila that will use hardware supplied by Huawei.

Meanwhile, Malaysia is putting its 5G network plans on hold until the government determines whether Huawei would be allowed to build the country's high-speed broadband network infrastructure.

The Pakatan Harapan administration had declared its ambition to offer the fastest Internet speed in South-east Asia with a 5G platform by 2022.

Last year, it revealed plans to start 5G pilot projects in Putrajaya – the country's administrative capital – and the adjacent town of Cyberjaya, and invited researchers, equipment vendors and other groups to collaborate in trials.

According to the Bernama news agency, the National Cyber Security Agency is leading the Huawei assessment, which is expected to



be completed this year. Separately, the Malaysian armed forces is also studying potential security threats.

Government adviser Daim Zainuddin said at an event on Jan 22: "There is good reason to fear the exponential rise of China's 5G technology. I have previously discussed issues of territorial sovereignty but today, we also face an encroachment on 'digital sovereignty'."

Indonesia, South-east Asia's largest economy, plans to invite ex-

perts and telecommunication firms for consultation later this year before drafting regulations that would form the basis of 5G commercial services. It expects to hold an auction for 5G spectrum by 2022.

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Additional reporting by Wahyudi Soeriaatmadja in Jakarta

electronics chain, will not bring in Huawei 5G smartphones when they are released this year.

Already shut out by US carriers, Huawei's smartphone tie-ups fell through early last year, reportedly due to political pressure.

Huawei was banned from bidding for government contracts after a House committee in 2012 said its equipment could be used by the Chinese government to spy on the US and pose a national security threat – a claim which Huawei denied.

Last year, government employees, contractors and agencies were banned from using Huawei equipment.

As most US carriers do not use Huawei's hardware, they can continue to sell to the government using other suppliers, even though these suppliers charge billions of dollars more.

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Like the rest of the world, the US is waiting for 5G smartphones before most people can benefit from ultra-fast Internet speeds. Most major US carriers are planning to launch 5G smartphones in the first half of this year, and all are either launching or expanding their 5G mobile services this year as well.



A 5G service robot serving bottles of water to travellers at a Hangzhou railway station during the Spring Festival travel rush. PHOTO: AGENCY FRANCE-PRESSE



A woman using a mobile phone in Tokyo's Asakusa district. Japan's three telcos are conducting 5G mobile communications trials. PHOTO: AGENCY FRANCE-PRESSE

Japanese telcos to roll out 5G services, but without Chinese tech

Walter Sim
Japan Correspondent
In Tokyo

Japan's three mobile carriers are promising to launch limited 5G commercial services this year and a full-scale roll-out by the time Tokyo hosts the Olympics in July next year.

NTT Docomo, KDDI and Softbank are conducting 5G mobile communications trials, as is upcoming telco Rakuten Mobile, which will begin a 4G service in October and 5G roll-out next year.

All four have said that they will shun Chinese equipment in their 5G networks following a move by the Japanese government in December last year to block Chinese companies such as Huawei and ZTE from public procurement due to security concerns.

Their pledge comes even as NTT Docomo and Softbank had been partnering Huawei in their respective 5G trials. Of the three operators, only Softbank is using Chinese technology in the 4G network.

While the government ban does not extend to private companies, the Nikkei business daily suggested that the carriers may have

been mindful of the risk of buying from companies that might eventually be barred from the market.

Internal Affairs and Communications Minister Masatoshi Ishida said in December that he expects "telecommunications carriers to also become actively involved in improving cyber security".

Management consultancy McKinsey & Company, in a research report last year, said Japanese companies have committed to invest more than US\$45 billion (\$660.8 billion) in 5G deployment.

Rakuten has been working with Finland's Nokia, while Japanese technology giants NEC and Fujitsu – the domestic leaders in mobile base stations – are partnering South Korea's Samsung and Sweden's Ericsson, respectively.

The roll out of 5G technology will be a plus for the Internet of Things – a network of devices that can be linked and operated remotely – which requires speedy networks that can also handle vast volumes of data.

Japan's trials are focused on self-driving vehicles, robotics, high-definition video transmissions as well as intelligence services such as remote medicine and eldercare, among other things.

Last December, NEC, KDDI and construction giant Obayashi successfully used 5G technology in a field test to remotely control construction machinery, in what is expected to be a game-changer if deployed in disaster-hit areas.

Rakuten conducted a 5G trial last November at the Rakuten Seimei Park Miyagi stadium, which included unmanned delivery robots, drone-based identity verification and ultra-high definition 8K video streaming to realise what it calls a "smart stadium" experience.

McKinsey said in its report: "Japan now faces an inflection point that will define its future competitiveness in mobile communications. It noted that while Japan was traditionally a pioneer, it has fallen behind in the past decade or so due to its inability to keep up with global disruption and innovation."

Japan's adoption of 5G, it said, will generate new opportunities in high-growth areas such as artificial and virtual reality, which to date are less dominated by global competitors, and enable the industry to innovate and stay competitive in areas such as autonomous vehicles and robotics."

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South Korean telcos make early strides

Chang May Choon
South Korea Correspondent
In Seoul

Last December, South Korea's three major telcos – SK Telecom, KT Corporation and LG Uplus – started offering what they claimed to be the world's first commercialised 5G service in Seoul and six other major cities, including Busan and Daejeon. But 5G – offering 20 times faster data transmission speed than the current 4G LTE network and better support for artificial intelligence (AI) and virtual reality – does not benefit the public yet, as there are currently no 5G-enabled consumer devices available in the market.

Samsung will release its first 5G phone only next month. It is expected to be a 5G version of the Galaxy S10, which is slated for launch on Feb 20, likely to be named S10 X and comes with a 6.7-inch screen – bigger than the S10's 6.1 inch.

Currently, mobile routers work as Wi-Fi hot spots for the 5G network, which can be used only by corporate clients. The ultra-fast 5G network – which costs around 50,000 won (\$660) a month – promises download speeds of up to 20Gb per second, which will allow a 2GB high-definition movie to be downloaded in less than a second (compared to 16 seconds on 4G LTE).

KT's first 5G subscriber is an AI robot named Lota, which guides visitors in an observatory in the country's tallest building, the Lotte World Tower in Seoul. Lota was jointly developed by KT and Lotte.

KT's 5G network also powers an automated coffee booth in Gangnam, where a "robot barista" makes beverages quickly, while transmitting closed-circuit television footage to the headquarters where managers can oversee the process.

Auto parts manufacturer Myungwha is using 5G and AI services offered by SK to screen for de-

fects more efficiently, while machine developer LS Mtron has created a 5G remote-controlled tractor together with LG Uplus.

Self-driving vehicles, which also use 5G, are being tested by various companies in K-City, an autonomous driving test zone in Hwaseong, in Gyeonggi province.

South Korea places a lot of emphasis on 5G technology, which is expected to be a key driver of the fourth industrial revolution. The Ministry of Science and ICT said it would invest 86.3 billion won by the end of next year in 5G-based businesses.

According to the KT Economics and Management Research Institute, 5G can generate 42.3 trillion won worth of economic benefits by 2030 in 10 industries, including manufacturing, cars, finance, health care and transport. This would account for 2.08 per cent of that year's gross domestic product and create 337,000 jobs that same year.

Market tracker Strategy Analytics' Service Provider Group estimates that 5.5 per cent of South Koreans will use 5G smartphones this year, with 10.9 per cent doing so next year. This is higher than figures estimated for the United States (4.7 per cent), Japan (5.2 per cent) and China (2.8 per cent) next year.

LG is using the latest equipment from Huawei, Samsung and Nokia for its 5G network. SK and KT are both working with Samsung, Nokia and Ericsson. LG has used Huawei's LTE equipment since 2013.

Security concerns prompted some customers to file an application with South Korea's presidential Blue House, lobbying against LG's collaboration with Huawei.

But the Chinese company said last October that there have been no cases of information leakage or security breach so far. LG has set up the highest number of 5,000 base stations for 5G as of last December.

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20

Number of times 5G transmission is faster than South Korea's current 4G LTE – it will allow a 2GB high-definition movie to be downloaded in less than a second.

\$60

Monthly cost for 5G network.

337k

Number of jobs 5G is projected to create in South Korea in 2030.

5.5%

Percentage of South Koreans expected to switch to 5G smartphones this year, more than the figures projected for the United States, Japan and China in 2020.



A 5G driverless car operated by Ericsson and Indian telco Reliance Jio that was developed in collaboration with IIT Delhi. PHOTO: ERICSSON

India gears up for widespread use amid security concerns

Debarshi Dasgupta
India Correspondent
In New Delhi

India might have missed the Industrial Revolution, but it has been a furious adopter of the digital one.

The Indian government set for itself a "5G Vision" as early as in December 2017. It calls for India to embrace the technology's "potential for ushering in a major societal transformation".

5G technologies are scheduled to enter commercial use next year and advance to a full range of services by 2024. The government expects to auction spectrum for these services in the second half of this year. The cumulative economic impact of 5G in India, according to a government steering committee report, can exceed US\$1 trillion (\$131.35 trillion) by 2035.

A number of firms have already gone ahead with 5G tests. Huawei Technologies, together with Bharti Airtel, an Indian telecom firm, conducted what was described as the country's first 5G trial in February last year. The test achieved a speed of more than 3GB per second, according to a media statement.

In July last year, Ericsson an-

nounced the creation of a Centre of Excellence and Innovation Lab for 5G at the Indian Institute of Technology (IIT) Delhi. The Swedish firm, later in October, partnered Reliance Jio Infocomm, another Indian telecom operator, to use 5G technology to operate a driverless car that was developed in collaboration with IIT Delhi.

Because the scope of 5G technology goes far beyond just telecoms, it remains at the heart of the government's vision to rapidly expand the role of information technology across different sectors, such as manufacturing, security and education. It is this potential for widespread use that has also heightened concerns over technology theft and espionage.

Huawei, a Chinese firm suspected of close links to the central government in Beijing, has been at the centre of growing fears about security, including in India. The Telecom Equipment and Services Export Promotion Council, a body set up by the government, in December last year reportedly flagged this concern to the government and sought a ban on Huawei and other Chinese companies.

Despite this concern, Minister of State for Telecommunications

Manoj Sinha told the Upper House of Parliament last month that the government had no proposal to consider a ban on telecom equipment made by Huawei.

Dr Manoj Joshi, a distinguished fellow at the Observer Research Foundation in New Delhi, said: "It is because of low data costs and cheap Chinese smartphones that the average Indian guy has been able to get online. This makes the Indian market extremely price-sensitive."

"Any telecom company rolling out 5G services here will therefore like the most economical option, and Huawei offers that. There is no denying that as far as this is concerned," he told The Straits Times.

Dr Joshi argues that telecom equipment from both the United States and China is vulnerable to backdoor spying.

"The question is: Are you comfortable with the US listening to your conversation or the Chinese? As an Indian, I would say neither. I would like to maintain the secrecy for our strategic communication. I don't see a choice there," he said, adding that India must develop capabilities to prevent snooping by "adversaries as well as friends".

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Huawei's grand ambitions for US dashed

Charissa Yong
US Correspondent
In Washington

America's 5G roll-out has so far been limited to home Internet and hot spots, but fully fledged 5G mobile service and 5G-enabled mobile phones will be available to millions of people this year.

However, Chinese technology giant Huawei, which once had grand ambitions for the American market, has been effectively locked out of this 5G drive.

With the next-generation technology, carriers are aiming to deliver mobile speeds of more than

1GB per second to their customers, which would enable them to download a Blu-ray movie in seconds.

Verizon was the first of the four major telcos to launch a 5G network last October. But it was a very limited roll-out with a huge caveat: It was only available as a home broadband service instead of in mobile phones, and did not use industry-standard 5G equipment.

Available in certain neighbourhoods in four test cities – Indianapolis, Los Angeles, Sacramento and Houston – Verizon's 5G service costs US\$50 (\$568) or US\$70, and enables users to download between 300MB and 1GB per second with no cap on data.

Its competitors quickly caught up. By the end of the year, major telcos T-Mobile and AT&T had launched their own 5G mobile networks in selected cities.

While T-Mobile's 5G network spans 30 cities, 5G-compatible smartphones are not yet available in the United States. Dallas, Las Vegas, Los Angeles and New York users will be the first to get their 5G smartphones this year, the company said.

AT&T rolled out its network in parts of 12 cities, but only to a small group of businesses and consumers, who must use 5G mobile hot spot equipment to adapt the 5G signal into Wi-Fi, which regular

electronics can use. Nineteen more cities will get the 5G network this year, and the hot spot will be sold to customers for US\$499 upfront this spring.

Like the rest of the world, the US is waiting for 5G smartphones before most people can benefit from ultra-fast Internet speeds.

Most major US carriers are planning to launch 5G smartphones in the first half of this year, and all are either launching or expanding their 5G mobile services this year as well.

T-Mobile and AT&T aim for nationwide 5G coverage by 2020.

But major smartphone distributors, such as telcos and the Best Buy



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WORLD



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Aussie military steps in after floods ravage Queensland

Hundreds left stranded as homes inundated, crocs seen in streets

CAIRNS (Queensland) • Australia's military has been deployed to tackle devastating "once-in-a-century" floods that have inundated homes, schools and airports in the country's north-east, forcing hundreds of people to flee and bringing crocodiles on to the streets.

About 1,000 troops from the Australian Defence Forces filled sandbags, deployed amphibious cargo vehicles and helped pluck flashlight-wielding residents from their rooftops yesterday as monsoon rains drenched the northern state of Queensland.

Australia's tropical north typically experiences heavy rains during the monsoon season, but the recent downpour has far exceeded normal levels.

The authorities were forced to open floodgates at a dam near the city of Townsville late on Sunday, unleashing a torrent that threatened to swamp thousands of homes — many already affected after days of heavy rain.

Yesterday, streets had turned into rivers in parts of Townsville, cars were mostly submerged, with picket fences barely poking through waist-deep floodwaters.

Social media carried pictures of locals in small boats with their pets and possessions. Dozens of small aluminium fishing boats called tinies were being used to carry out impromptu rescues of people and pets from flooded homes.

"We've never seen so much water in our lives," said local radio journal-

ist Gabi Elgood. "You think there can't possibly be any more to come but the rain just doesn't stop."

Desperate residents had to contend not only with flash flooding, landslides and power blackouts, but also several saltwater crocodiles that were spotted in residential roads and cul-de-sacs in the flood-ravaged Townsville area.

Emergency services struggled to respond to the scale of the disaster, and carried out 18 "swift water rescues" overnight. More than 1,100 people called the emergency services for urgent help, said state Premier Anastacia Palaszczuk.

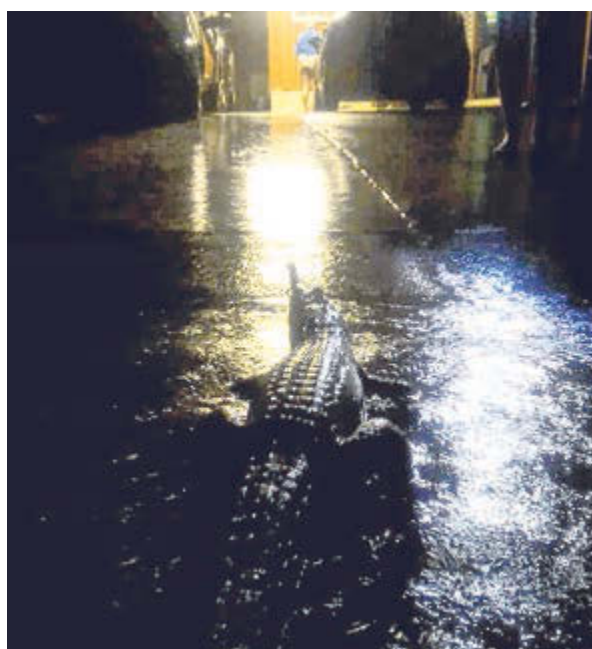
About 400 Townsville residents sought shelter at nearby Lavarack military barracks, and the Red Cross also assisted with the response and recovery effort. "Small boats worked through the night to evacuate members of the community," said Brigadier Scott Winter.

Ms Palaszczuk warned that the communities face more difficulties ahead. Schools and courts remain closed, more rain is on the way and emergency warnings are still in effect for more than a dozen rivers.

The Bureau of Meteorology said the severe weather is set to spread further south to the Whitsunday Islands area.

Ergon Energy spokesman Emma Oliveri said more than 16,000 people were without power, and the company is unable to say when the lights will come back on.

The town of Ingham, just north of Townsville, received just over 10cm of rain in just a few hours yesterday morning, according to the Bureau of Meteorology. Winds are expected to blow at up to 100kmh on the coast.



(Above) Gunner Tavis McEwan from the Royal Australian Artillery helping to evacuate a resident from her home amid the rising floodwaters in Townsville. (Left) A crocodile spotted on the streets in Townsville yesterday.



STRAITS TIMES GRAPHICS

A photo from the Queensland Fire and Emergency Services command yesterday showing the extent of the flooding in the region. The area receives an average of about 2,000mm of rain annually, but some towns are already on track to pass that. PHOTOS: AGENCE FRANCE-PRESSE

house told national broadcaster ABC his house was flooded with water that was more than 1m deep.

He said: "The volume of water is just incredible. Downstairs is gone, the fridge and freezer are floating. Another five or six steps and upstairs is gone too."

In a separate ABC report, the Button family in Townsville, in a video, spoke about how they decided to stay on to watch their home get flooded. The family drank beer and wine as the floodwaters rose in the kitchen and living area on Sunday night. "We're going down with the ship," Mr Button said in the video, which he posted online.

Water levels in the house reached about 0.5m overnight but then fell to about ankle-deep by yesterday morning. In the end, the family left via a small boat tethered in the front yard.

With adverse weather predicted to continue for up to 72 hours, Mr Blazak said some regions could see record-breaking levels of rainfall.

A silver lining to the deluge is that it has given a boost to drought-stricken farmers in western Queensland. The severe drought has left graziers struggling to stay in business.

Farmers were rejoicing after days of heavy rains had turned parched paddocks into lakes in some areas.

Cloncurry Mayor Greg Campbell told ABC that he had watched his region go from breaking a Queensland heat record of consecutive days over 40 deg C, to receiving more than 300mm of rain in just a matter of days.

"I'm sure once it does ease up and we get a week of sunshine, the spirits of our people, especially our graziers, will lift even more seeing those green shoots appear," he told ABC. AGENCE FRANCE-PRESSE

Up to 20,000 homes are at risk of being inundated if the rains continue, officials said.

"It's basically not just a once-in-20-years event, it's a once-in-100-years event," said Ms Palaszczuk. "This is unprecedented, we've never seen anything like this before," she added.

Bureau of Meteorology official Adam Blazak said the downpours

could continue until Thursday, while floodwaters will take some time to recede even when the rains lessen. Some areas are expected to get a year's worth of rain in just over a week.

The region receives an average of about 2,000mm of rain annually, but some towns were already on track to pass that.

Townsville resident Chris Brooke-

Indonesia's military demands civilian positions for officers

Critics say planned revision means revival of dual defence, civilian functions and is detrimental to military reforms

JAKARTA • Indonesian bureaucrats may soon face tighter competition to reach the top rungs of the career ladder, with the government planning to allow active military officers to take up positions in ministries and government institutions.

The Indonesian military, known as the Tentara Nasional Indonesia (TNI), is formulating an amendment to the TNI law, that was enacted in 2004, to permit middle- and high-ranking officers to serve in the top two levels of ministries and state institutions.

TNI commander Hadi Tjahjanto said the revision was aimed at reorganising the military, which has been unable to provide positions to around 500 middle- and high-ranking officers. Under the existing law, military officers can occupy civilian positions only if they are retired, and they can be placed only in offices that handle political, state security and state defence matters.

After President Suharto stepped down in May 1998, the TNI had to adjust its role from being a tool of the regime to becoming a professional defence force.

Soldiers were stripped of their dual defence and civilian functions that had enabled them to be involved in politics and independent businesses. The TNI budget was controlled by the government and



The Indonesian military, known as the Tentara Nasional Indonesia (TNI), is formulating an amendment to the TNI law to permit middle- and high-ranking officers to serve in the top two levels of ministries and state institutions. PHOTO: AGENCE FRANCE-PRESSE

supervised by the House of Representatives. Furthermore, legislation including the TNI Law was aimed at reforming the military and curbing the desire of active officials to return to politics.

TNI members have to retire from service to be permitted to take part in businesses or government institutions, or to run in elections.

A 2017 study by the Centre for Strategic and International Studies estimated that since 1998, the TNI has produced a surplus of more than 100 military officers per year.

President Joko Widodo last week announced he had agreed to open promotions for senior military officers and raise the retirement age for lower ranks. The President said there would be some 60 positions for high-ranking officers of the army, navy and air force.

“One- to three-star military officers can serve in the 60 positions and colonels can fill (some) of the positions to be promoted to star ranks,” Mr Joko said. “I have also ordered the law and human rights minister to, together with the TNI commander, revise the retirement age of enlisted personnel and non-commissioned officers from 53 to 58 years (in the 2004 TNI Law).”

Ms Bivitri Susanti, a constitutional law expert from the Jakarta-based Jentera School of Law, said the plan would lead to a revival of the dual defence and civilian functions, in a setback to military reform efforts. “We have to keep the military’s role separate from the civilian sphere. They should not (have a role) as public officials,” she said.

Mr Ahmad Riza Patria of the opposition Gerindra Party criticised the plan, saying: “The military should understand that civil servants have built their careers (in ministries and state institutions) for years. If military officers can fill positions civil servants should fill, that means civil servants will lose their chance to be appointed to the posts.”

THE JAKARTA POST/ASIA NEWS NETWORK

Xi, Trump may meet end-Feb in Vietnam: Report

HONG KONG • United States President Donald Trump and Chinese President Xi Jinping are considering a meeting on Feb 27 and 28 in the coastal city of Da Nang in Vietnam, the South China Morning Post reported, citing a person familiar with the discussions.

The newspaper said Mr Trump mentioned this possibility when a

Chinese trade delegation visited Washington last week for trade talks, and that he looked forward to meeting Mr Xi once or twice to finalise a trade deal with China.

Mr Trump also said Mr Xi had sent him a letter saying he also wanted to reach an agreement before March 1, a DPA report on Sunday said.

The Chinese Foreign Ministry said that Mr Xi would keep in touch with Mr Trump through various means, the South China Morning Post also said in its report.

The two presidents on Dec 1 agreed to a 90-day “ceasefire” in their trade war, which saw the US impose tariffs on US\$250 billion (\$338 billion) worth of Chinese im-

ports, and China retaliating.

A Chinese trade delegation led by Vice-Premier Liu He was in Washington last week to continue the negotiations.

Both sides sounded optimistic after the talks concluded.

Mr Trump is also set to meet North Korean leader Kim Jong Un later this month, DPA added.

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WORLD FOCUS



The main road that cuts across Boracay has been widened, and a red brick sidewalk is being built. Still, traffic remains a problem. The island has had around 269,000 visitors since it reopened in October, officials have said. About 125,000 were from abroad. In 2017, Boracay drew around two million tourists.



Above: Beach-goers from Israel all set for the sun. Most tourists who have been to Boracay since it reopened last October do not mind the more muted experience. Left: White Beach, Boracay's main strip, a 4km stretch of soft, white sand and emerald green sea. PHOTOS: CRISTINA MENINA FOR THE STRAITS TIMES

Boracay is reborn, but not all are glad

Philippine President Rodrigo Duterte called Boracay a 'cesspool', a shocking label for the country's crown jewel resort island. He then closed the island to tourists for six months for a massive cleanup. When it was reopened in late October, there were fewer hotels and restaurants, a cap on the number of visitors and a stop to the dumping of raw sewage into the open sea. **The Straits Times** visited the holiday isle recently to gauge reactions to the changes.

Raul Dancel
Philippines Correspondent
In Boracay (Aklan)

It was something Boracay had not seen in a very long time. On Dec 31, just before 2019 rolled in, the island's main strip, known as White Beach, was dark and still – no fireworks, no parties, no campari-swilling revelers.

All that could be heard were the hum of the surf and the rustling of palm fronds as a gentle breeze swept through the groves.

In earlier times, this 4km stretch of white sand and emerald green sea would be lit up by pyrotechnics from one end to the other as resort owners competed to put on the best show to wow their customers keen to see in the new year with a blast.

But since concluding an extensive, six-month makeover, Boracay has had to scale back from "party central" to something more laid back, cerebral, even spiritual.

The upgrade has been extensive. A government-appointed task force dismantled illegal pipes that dumped untreated sewage straight into the sea. More treatment plants

were built, and pumping stations were refurbished. A second garbage disposal plant was hired.

Buildings were bulldozed, and businesses pushed back to create a 30m buffer zone from the waterline. The main road and the sidewalks that flank it were widened. Teams of volunteers were formed to regularly clean the beach of debris and algae.

It is never going to be the low-key tropical backwater with the anything-goes vibe it once was before an explosion of unlicensed developments overtaxed its sewers, storm drains and waste disposal systems.

But for now, most tourists who have been to Boracay since it reopened in October do not mind the more mellow experience.

A few miss the all-night parties, fire dancers, karaoke sing-alongs and the barely controlled chaos that used to pervade at the beachfront.

"The old Boracay was a little dirtier, but it was more lively than it is now," said student Jan Rico, 19, who grew up near the beach but now lives in New Jersey with his parents.

Generally, though, they are happy with what they are seeing.

"Like boring. We're not party animals. So, it's fine with us," said Ms

Leya Handler, 24, a lawyer from Israel who flew to the Philippines from Singapore with three friends.

Russian Tony Mikhalyuk, 28, is in his second season on the island as a kiteboard instructor. He was in Boracay just before it was shut down in April last year, after President Rodrigo Duterte, incensed by images of pipes dumping untreated sewage onto one of the island's smaller beaches, called it a "cesspool".

"I like what they've done with the place," he said. "I think it's good. It is very different. It's a little bit sad, though. For example, for our kite school. We were four times bigger. We had so much space. At the same time, I believe in a bright future. We're going to rebuild."

'NEW' BORACAY

Boracay is less crowded now. Its beaches and the surrounding seas are breathing again. Gone are the usual suspects – the trinket vendors, water sports solicitors, masseuses, hair braiders, sand sculptors – who would weave among tourists along the shoreline to ply their trade and sell their wares.

They have all been pushed back behind a line 30m from the shore.



With fewer tourists and a slew of new restrictions, those who live off the island braiding hair and selling trinkets and souvenirs have seen their incomes shrink, even as their expenses rise.



So too have all the tables, chairs, cots and umbrellas that used to blanket half the beachfront.

Musicians and nightclub performers play inside pubs and bars, not on the beach itself.

The changes have given tourists more beach real estate to play with. All across White Beach, Chinese vacationers do what they like most when on holiday: take selfies and waffles, and pretend they are on a cover shoot for Sports Illustrated.

They line up at the water's edge to

board wooden outrigger canoes with bright blue sails, known as "paraws", or wait to take their turn on stand-up paddle boards.

In the distance, dozens of canopy wings that resemble parachutes soar about 150m into the air.

A smattering of beach-goers lie on towels as they chase the sun to get that perfect tan.

In less bustling Bulabog Beach, about a hundred kiteboarders and windsurfers zip across brackish waters inside a shallow cove.

At night, Boracay's beachfront is lit by only the weak, whitish sheen of LED street lights and the faint glow coming from the phones of couples taking a walk under a crescent moon.



A sign on White Beach stating what can and cannot be done in the "new" Boracay, which has had to scale back from being "party central" to something more laid back, cerebral, even spiritual.



Tourists taking a ride on wooden outrigger canoes with bright-blue sails, known as "paraws".

At night, the beach is lit by only the weak, whitish sheen of LED street lights and the faint glow coming from the phones of couples taking a walk under a crescent moon.

The island has had around 269,000 visitors since it reopened in October, officials have said. About 125,000 were from abroad, with tourists from South Korea, China and the United States making up half of that.

In 2017, Boracay drew around two million tourists.

have shrunk. Their expenses, meanwhile, have grown as costs rise.

The Philippine Institute for Development Studies estimated that Boracay's closure had cost the economy 20.8 billion pesos (\$536.5 million) to 83.15 billion pesos in lost tourism revenue, and Boracay's workers from 7 billion pesos to 27.9 billion pesos in lost income.

"We are happy that it is open. But unfortunately, with these new regulations, we the stakeholders have a lot of adjustments to make. At the

end of the day, we...are really suffering," said Mr Peter Tay, 46, a Singaporean who has been running a travel agency in Boracay for more than 15 years.

Mr Tay said he used to make 30 per cent off each travel package he sells. Now, it is a lucky day if he can get 10 per cent. He has yet to recover from having to wind down his agency for six months. His only reprieve was a 5,000 peso discount on his monthly rent.

There is constant foot traffic at a bright red floating pier where ferries drop off passengers from the main island of Panay. However, for Mr Tay, there are not enough tourists to provide him with a living, at least not on the same scale as before.

FEWER TOURISTS

Regulators have capped the number of tourists who can stay in Boracay on any given day at about 19,000 to keep the total population on the 10-sq km island below its "carrying capacity" of 55,000.

Before that, especially during a huge Labour Day weekend festival known as "LaBoracay", there would be as many as 100,000 crowding the island.

Airlines have cut the number of flights to Boracay to help the government stay on target.

Philippine Airlines now has 88 flights a week via the cities of Manila, Cebu and Kalibo, from 94 previously. Cebu Pacific has stopped flying to Malay, the town that covers Boracay, via its low-cost unit CebGo.

Airfares have also gone up. Cebu Pacific charges nearly 13,000 pesos for a round-trip ticket from Manila to Boracay, as much as it costs to travel to Singapore.

There also have not been as many lodgings as earlier. So far, 307 hotels, resorts and hostels with 10,982 rooms have reopened, less than a sixth of the pre-shutdown level.

The island has had around 269,000 visitors since it reopened in October, officials have said. About 125,000 were from abroad, with tourists from South Korea, China and the United States making up half of that.

In 2017, Boracay drew around two million tourists.

Mr Mikhalyuk said Bulabog Beach had five times as many kiteboarders around this time last year.

This drop in tourist arrivals means far fewer opportunities to cash in on for everyone, from the big hotel chains to shop owners, rickshaw drivers and souvenir hawkers.

For Ms Rhea Balandra, 40, it means her family's future is now on the line. She has been a masseuse in Boracay for around 14 years. Before the place was shut down, she made about 2,000 pesos a day. That is now down to just 250 pesos.

"I can no longer keep up with payments for water, electricity. Then, there are the children who have to go to school. Since Boracay was shut down, my debts have been piling up," she said.

Masseuses and hair braiders used to be stationed at 10 areas along White Beach. Now, they feel like rats being shoved inside whatever holes are available to them.

After Boracay reopened, Ms Balandra and 19 other masseuses and hair braiders found themselves inside a half-torn, two-storey building that used to house a pub. Eleven cots were spread out inside.

Without their old spots on the beach, they are losing out to spiffy, air-conditioned spas.

"Because we were right on the beach, the tourists would come straight to us for a massage," said Ms Balandra. "They like to hear the sound of the ocean. Now, look at our place. It's dark and messy."

We don't disagree with what they're doing. (It's meant to save Boracay. Sometimes, though, I think these changes favour those with money, the businessmen. Sometimes I think they have no place for the poor who are most affected."

EVERYTHING'S MORE COSTLY NOW

It does not help that prices of food and other essentials, including utilities, have gone up in step with the national trend.

Mr Mark Gelito, 27, who manages a Chinese-Filipino restaurant in Boracay's main road, said prices of tilapia have risen from 130 pesos a kilo last year to 180 pesos.

But with so few tourists walking in, the restaurant could not raise its prices.

"We charge less, but we still make

HOPE FOR THE FUTURE

I like what they've done with the place. I think it's good. It is very different. It's a little bit sad, though. For example, for our kite school. We were four times bigger. We had so much space. At the same time, I believe in a bright future.



MR TONY MIKHALYUK, a Russian who is in his second season on the island as a kiteboard instructor. He was in Boracay just before it was shut down in April last year, after President Rodrigo Duterte, incensed by images of pipes dumping untreated sewage onto one of the island's smaller beaches, called it a cesspool.

DRASTIC FALL IN INCOME

I can no longer keep up with payments for water, electricity. Then, there are the children who have to go to school. Since Boracay was shut down, my debts have been piling up.



MS RHEA BALANDRA, who has been a masseuse in Boracay for around 14 years. Before the place was shut down, she made about 2,000 pesos a day. She now makes just 250 pesos.

MORE MELLOW, FAMILY FRIENDLY

Personally, I like it now. At my age, I like to go home and sleep at night, watch TV. I'm sure people miss the parties. But I'm quite happy with it. It's become more of a family-oriented location.



MS LEE ROSAIA, who came to Boracay from California 37 years ago when it was still unspoiled and never left. Along the way, she sequestered a hut and from there began selling "real coffee". Now 77, she has witnessed the many changes Boracay has gone through and thinks this latest iteration is one that suits her time of life.

19,000

Number of tourists who can stay in Boracay on any given day to keep the total population on the 10 sq km island below its "carrying capacity" of 55,000. Before that, especially during a huge Labour Day weekend festival known as "LaBoracay", there would be as many as 100,000 crowding the island.

up for the costs with volume," said Mr Gelito.

A slew of Chinese restaurants has started operations since Boracay reopened, and they are fast cornering the Chinese market with cheaper fare and more authentic dishes.

There are also the piles of new government certifications and clearances that have to be met.

Hotel administrator Gilrie Formento, said it took her four months to complete the paperwork to allow Piccolo Hotel to keep operating.

Rules on garbage disposal also have to be met. The hotel has to specify where it dumps its solid and chemical waste. With more than 50 rooms, it also has had to install its own sewage treatment plant, one that costs at least two million pesos.

"Each requirement has requirements, and these requirements have their own requirements," said the 42-year-old administrator.

To make up for the extra expense, Piccolo Hotel has raised its room rates from about 3,200 pesos a night to 4,200 pesos.

Ms Lee Rosaia came to Boracay from California 37 years ago when it was still unspoiled and never left. Along the way, she sequestered a hut and from there began selling "real coffee". That hole-in-the-wall affair, which she put up just so she could have a source of income, later became Real Coffee, now a go-to place among Boracay veterans.

Now 77, Ms Rosaia has witnessed the many changes Boracay has gone through and thinks this latest iteration is one that suits her time of life.

"Personally, I like it now. At my age, I like to go home and sleep at night, watch TV. I'm sure people miss the parties. But I'm quite happy with it. It's become more of a family-oriented location," she said.

The place was "nice before too", she pointed out. "It was crazy. It was fun. But it's nice now because it's more quiet."

But soaring costs – her electricity and water bills have gone up by 20 per cent to 30 per cent – have also made squeezing a profit a challenge.

But she is staying put: "I will stay here as long as I can. I'm still enjoying Boracay. It's still a beautiful island. It's really a good life."



Abu Dhabi's Crown Prince Sheikh Mohammed bin Zayed al-Nahyan welcoming Pope Francis to the UAE on Sunday. PHOTO: DPA

Pope Francis arrives in UAE on historic trip

Ahead of trip, he urges all sides in Yemen conflict to implement fragile peace deal

ABUDHABI • Pope Francis has become the first pontiff to set foot on the Arabian Peninsula, just hours after issuing his strongest condemnation yet of the war in Yemen, where his host the United Arab Emirates has a leading military role.

Shortly before departing for Abu Dhabi, Pope Francis said he was following the humanitarian crisis in Yemen with great concern, using his regular Sunday address in Vatican City to urge all sides to implement a fragile peace deal and deliver aid to millions of people.

"The cry of these children and their parents rises up to God," he told tens of thousands of people in St Peter's Square before boarding his flight for the UAE.

The UAE welcomed the Pope's message on Yemen and believes the peace deal he referred to was a historic breakthrough, Minister of State for Foreign Affairs Anwar Gargash wrote on Twitter.

"Let us assure its implementation and make 2019 the year of peace in Yemen," he said after the pope landed in Abu Dhabi.

Yemen's warring parties agreed on a ceasefire in December at the first major peace talks of the nearly four-year-old war, which pits Arab states backing an exiled president against the Iran-aligned Houthi movement that controls the capital.

Tens of thousands of people have been killed in the conflict, and the United Nations says millions are on the verge of starvation. Their survival depends on the truce preventing aid from being cut off by all-out fighting for the country's main port.

Pope Francis was greeted by Abu Dhabi's Crown Prince Sheikh

Mohammed bin Zayed al-Nahyan, who escorted him to meet Sheikh Ahmed al-Tayeb, the Grand Imam of Egypt's Al-Azhar mosque and university, one of the main seats of learning of Sunni Islam. The pontiff embraced him.

Both men were to hold meetings with Pope Francis yesterday.

The UAE plays a leading role in the Saudi-led coalition battling the Houthis in Yemen. The UN is trying to implement a truce and troop withdrawal deal in the main Yemeni port of Hodeidah, agreed at the December talks as a step that could pave the way for negotiations to end the conflict.

Vatican officials have said it is not clear whether Pope Francis will address the sensitive subject in public or private during his visit to Abu Dhabi, which is aimed at promoting interfaith dialogue.

The Pope will meet Muslim leaders and celebrate an outdoor mass for some 135,000 Catholics, an event with no precedent on the Arabian Peninsula. He has said the trip, which ends today, is an opportunity to write "a new page in the history of relations between religions".

The UAE, which named 2019 its Year of Tolerance, says the visit reflects its history as a "cradle of diversity". The country is home to about one million expatriate Catholics, many from the Philippines. Another one million Catholics are believed to live in other countries in the Arabian Peninsula.

Priests and diplomats describe the UAE as one of the least restrictive environments in the Gulf for Christian worship. But like its Arab neighbours, the UAE does not allow dissent or criticism of its leadership.

The country faces criticism from human rights groups for jailing activists, including Ahmed Mansoor, an Emirati who is serving a 10-year sentence for criticising the government on social media.

The UAE Ambassador to Washington, Mr Yousef Al Otaiba, wrote in an op-ed in Politico magazine on Sunday that the pontiff's visit sent a signal of coexistence and respect in the face of the "menace of extremism" across the Middle East. REUTERS



Mr Juan Guaido comforting Ms Ana Cecilia Buitrago on Sunday. Her son, Mr Jhonny Godoy, was killed by Venezuela's security forces during a recent demonstration against the government of President Nicolas Maduro. PHOTOS: NYTIMES

Dashing around Caracas, Guaido steers Venezuela to a perilous crossroads

CARACAS (Venezuela) • Calls from world leaders were piling up. The Prime Minister of Denmark was trying to reach him. So, too, was Mr Justin Trudeau, Canada's Prime Minister.

But Mr Juan Guaido, the young Venezuelan lawmaker leading an effort to topple the country's authoritarian government, did not appear to be in a hurry to speak with them, as he held the hand of a woman whose son had been gunned down by security forces during a recent night-time demonstration.

"This can't be in vain," Mr Guaido told the mother, Ms Ana Cecilia Buitrago, on Sunday morning as tears welled up in his eyes.

"My son had a big heart," Ms Buitrago, 58, said in a shaky voice. Her son, 29-year-old Jhonny Godoy, was killed on Jan 25 outside his modest home in Caracas. "This government has to fall so we can put an end to all this misery."

Mr Godoy's death came a few days after Mr Guaido, head of Venezuela's National Assembly, formally launched an audacious bid to force Mr Nicolas Maduro out of the presidency, arguing that Mr Maduro had "usurped" power by taking office on Jan 10, following an election that was broadly seen as rigged.

Since then, Mr Guaido, a lanky 35-year-old, has been working to shore up his support abroad while leveraging his escalating public support at home to get government insiders, in particular military leaders, to turn on Mr Maduro.

So far, more than 20 governments have recognised him as the country's interim president, including the United States, Canada and most of the rest of South America. Also, several European Union countries gave Mr Maduro a deadline of midnight on Sunday to call for free and fair elections.

France and Austria have said they will recognise Mr Guaido once the deadline passes.



Venezuelan opposition leader Juan Guaido (centre) arriving for a session of the National Assembly, in Caracas, on Jan 29. The young lawmaker sees a clear, if daunting, path to ousting President Nicolas Maduro.

If Mr Guaido's gambit succeeds, he and allied opposition leaders will have pulled off an astonishing feat: presiding over a peaceful transition to democracy that they hope will put Venezuela on a path towards recovery following years of economic collapse, widespread graft and iron-fisted rule.

His success would be all the more remarkable considering the scrappy operation Mr Guaido and his allies have mounted to take down an armed government whose leaders stand accused of turning the state into a vast criminal enterprise. As he tries to rally domestic and international backing, Mr Guaido has been crisscrossing Caracas with minimal security, at times weaving through traffic on the back of a motorcycle. He fields calls from world leaders, as well as diplomats and Venezuelan politicians, on a cellphone that gets a torrent of text messages, and his phone's battery seems always on the verge of dying.

If his sudden rise has been overwhelming, Mr Guaido shows no sign of feeling frazzled. His demeanour is

calm as his aides, all volunteers, dart around him frantically.

"I sleep placidly," Mr Guaido said in an interview as his car stealthily moved through Caracas traffic, adding that he had learnt to sleep soundly under trying conditions when he and other opposition leaders staged a 15-day hunger strike in 2015, sleeping on cots on the street, to pressure the government to set a date for legislative elections.

But Mr Guaido realises the path he is on is full of hazards.

Mr Maduro still holds many of the levers of power, including the state broadcaster, a compliant judiciary, the country's military leaders and ruthless paramilitary forces known as *colectivos*.

"We're seeing progress, but it's not happening as quickly as we'd like," Mr Guaido said.

Oil sanctions imposed by the US last week will soon strangle the country's already devastated economy, which will most likely cause shortages of fuel and make food and medicine even more scarce.

Mr Guaido and his allies see the

coming week, and the arrival of aid, as a potential make-or-break moment for a movement that has stirred hope for millions of Venezuelans, but has yet to take steps that meaningfully improve their lives.

"There are between 250,000 and 300,000 Venezuelans on the brink of death," he said as he dashed from his apartment in eastern Caracas to the home of Ms Buitrago.

If he does manage to take the presidency, Mr Guaido will have to try to tackle the country's enormous problems with no prior experience running a government.

Mr Fernando Cutz, a former White House official who worked on Venezuela policy, called Mr Guaido "the right man for the right moment".

But the next steps will be treacherous, even if Mr Guaido manages to topple Mr Maduro. "Things probably will get worse for the people of Venezuela before they get better when you actually start doing things for the greater good," Mr Cutz said. NYTIMES

WorldBriefs

Jolie in Cox's Bazar

Hollywood actress Angelina Jolie, a special envoy of the United Nations Refugee Agency UNHCR, arrived in Bangladesh's Cox's Bazar yesterday to visit Rohingya camps.

The area, the world's largest refugee settlement, houses nearly one million Rohingya fleeing persecution in Myanmar.

Ms Jolie will talk to the media this afternoon and is likely to meet Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina and Foreign Minister AK Abdul Momen before leaving Dhaka tomorrow. THE DAILY STAR/ASIA NEWS NETWORK

Obesity-linked cancers among youth

PARIS • A sharp rise in the rate of obesity-linked cancers among young adults in the United States could foreshadow a reversal in the overall decline in cancer mortality, researchers warned. In a sweeping study covering two-thirds of the US population, they showed that half a dozen cancers for which obesity is a known risk factor became more frequent from 1995 to 2015 among women and men under 50. The younger the age bracket, the more quickly these cancers gained ground, they reported in The Lancet, a medical journal, yesterday. AGENCE FRANCE-PRESSE

Registration for Thai polls starts

BANGKOK • Politicians contesting Thailand's March 24 polls began registering yesterday in an exercise that will run through Friday.

The March 24 election will be the first since the military seized power in 2014. But the atmosphere yesterday was quieter than in the past as the Election Commission banned candidates from organising colourful parades, The Nation reported.

While Thailand has 350 constituencies, attention will focus on Bangkok where the battle for 30 House of Representatives seats at stake is expected to be fierce.

Tories seeking compromise Brexit plan

LONDON • Britain's Brexit Minister Stephen Barclay was to hold a meeting of a new working group of Conservative lawmakers yesterday seeking to find an alternative plan to avoid a post-Brexit border in Ireland, Prime Minister Theresa May's office said.

The group's members will include pro-Brexit lawmakers and pro-EU Conservatives Damian Green and Nicky Morgan.

Attorney-General Geoffrey Cox is also looking into the legal changes Britain is aiming to secure the backstop, with ideas including a unilateral exit mechanism or a time limit. REUTERS

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The Straits Times says

IGO must ensure higher safety bar

The Singapore Armed Forces (SAF) is setting up an Inspector-General's Office (IGO) that will report directly to the Chief of Defence Force and have full authority to scrutinise and enforce safety processes and practices at all levels. The formation of the new office is among measures undertaken by the SAF in the wake of actor Aloysius Pang's death last month after the operationally ready national serviceman was hurt in a military exercise. Other moves include increasing the number of safety inspection teams and full-time safety officers to perform checks and audits on unit-level safety systems in the army, which will progressively lift a safety timeout.

What is significant about the IGO is that while

the army, navy and air force have their own safety inspectorates, it is understood that the IGO will perform an additional level of audits and checks, as well as promote safety education, beyond what the inspectorates do now in each service. It is important that the additional oversight be substantial, otherwise the IGO would be merely duplicating the work of the existing bodies charged with ensuring training safety. Like any nascent organisation, the IGO would have to show its relevance by contributing institutionally to the creation of a higher-order safety culture across the SAF. Although fatalities mar the safety record, the bar the SAF has set is high. The IGO would have to show that it could be higher.

The SAF no doubt will draw lessons from the findings of the Committee of Inquiry, led by a State Court-nominated judge, that has been convened to investigate the latest death. The IGO would do well to examine the committee's findings with an eye to operationalising them across the SAF. Almost every accident is a unique occurrence, but a series of accidents forms a pattern. Admittedly, that pattern could be limited to the specific challenges faced by different parts of the armed forces in the pursuit of their mission. However, the IGO should be in a position to adopt a holistic view of the entire landscape and focus on possible gaps in training safety that surface suddenly and with tragic consequences.

What happens in the army, navy and air force affects the armed forces as a whole. It affects all Singaporeans, too, and personally. The SAF is a people's armed force that brings together and unites citizens over and against every difference of race, religion, class and gender. Although women do not have to perform national service, their sons, brothers and boyfriends do. Every mishap threatens, therefore, to cast a shadow on the trust that Singaporeans invest habitually, and rightly, in their armed forces. Given its high profile, the IGO should be at the forefront of enhancing that trust. It should do so by helping to inculcate a zero-accident mindset that treats mishaps as preventable. Accidents are not inevitable.

HomeFront

My grandmother's unconditional love



Tay Hwee Peng

A trip to the small mom-and-pop textile shops at Ang Mo Kio Central used to be a Chinese New Year ritual for my mother and me.

We would go to the stores a month ahead of the festival to shop for fabric to make new clothes for her mother-in-law, my paternal grandmother. In those days, tailor-made clothes were still in fashion and there were much fewer choices for elderly women.

The old clothes were still new and they still fit, my thrifty grandmother would argue. But she was no match for my insistent mother.

It has been more than a decade since my last visit to the textile shops, many of which have shuttered.

My grandmother died in 2011. Since she passed away at age 86, I have thought of her often.

My grandmother never used a thermometer. She always said she didn't need one.

When I was young, whenever I fell sick or got feverish, she would bend over to touch my forehead with hers. It was her own foolproof way of checking whether my temperature had gone down.

We shared the same bed, later the same bedroom, until I got married at age 26.

Even today, that image of her face against mine, forehead-to-forehead, keeps cropping up in my mind whenever I think of her.

My grandmother got married when she was 18.

The youngest of five siblings, she was a beauty when she was young and she never failed to remind my grandpa, who was eight years older, that their union would never have happened had it not been for World War II.

In order not to attract unwanted attention, she used charcoal to smudge her face during the Japanese Occupation days.

The family decided to marry her off as soon as possible and they eventually found a match in my grandpa, who at 26 was considered way past the marriageable age. He had been too busy making a living after arriving in Singapore at age 12 with his father, my great-grandfather, from China's Fujian province.



BEDTIME STORIES

Compared with my grandpa, she had a relatively cushy life growing up in Singapore – until she got married in 1943, she often said. My father, the eldest of eight children, was born in 1946.

Born in Singapore, my grandmother did not have to bind her feet, unlike her China-born mother-in-law who had three-inch-long "lotus feet". That also meant my great-grandmother was likely of noble lineage.

Unlike her own mother-in-law, my grandma used to grow vegetables and raise pigs.

Compared to those chores, one of the most unbearable tasks she had to endure was to wash the cloth that

bound the tiny, deformed feet when her mother-in-law was ailing.

These are my bedtime stories. Growing up, I spent most of my sleeping and waking hours with my ah mah by my side.

She was a woman of few words.

The only three Chinese characters she recognised were the three which made up her name. She could sign her name in English but it took much effort each time to recall each letter of the alphabet.

Yet my ah mah was a great listener. She never went to school, but she lapped up every story I brought back from school and work.

She knew all my kaki (friends) from school, the day my Primary 2 Chinese teacher picked me for a

poetry recital competition and the stresses of working in a fast-paced newsroom. More importantly, she never passed any judgment. Anything I did, must have been the right thing. Any choice I made, was the correct one. Even if events proved me wrong later, she was always by my side.

Unconditional. Such indulgence. She never held a full-time job unless you consider being the mother of eight, a grandmother and great-grandmother one.

She spent a long time doing housework, being the neat freak she was. I liked to think folding clothes was her favourite chore, if only because it was the least demanding on her aching joints. I now find the

repetitive actions therapeutic.

She wasn't a good cook. Porridge with fried bean curd and dried shrimp was her speciality. I used to hate it when I was having it three to four times a week. A simple dish, yet it is a taste forever lost. Now that I am older, I crave the dish whenever I feel under the weather.

She had a feisty temper but never once did I experience her wrath. Everyone in the family says she had an exceptionally soft spot for me.

When I had to apply for a bank loan to finance my university studies, she wanted to be my guarantor. Her reasoning was flawed, but spoke volumes: If ever I were to default on the bank loan, she would just serve time behind bars to make up for it. But bank rules didn't allow it and my mother became the guarantor.

As she became frailer in old age, her favourite spot in the house was next to the home telephone. That's because she could at least help my mother, who was then looking after my baby niece, pick up the phone.

None of us at the other end of the line, however, noticed that she was slurring in her speech one day in October 2007. It was a warning sign that went unheeded. A massive stroke the next day left her paralysed and a wheelchair-user in the last three years of her life.

She died at age 86, eight years ago.

LOVE BEYOND MEASURE

Some years back, before I had my daughter, a colleague and I were having a discussion about the pros and cons of having a grandparent care for the child. I had told her that my grandmother was my main caregiver.

At that time her mother-in-law was taking care of her first-born. "So do you love your ah mah more than your mother?"

For a moment, I was lost for words. I had no answer straightaway.

I love my mother, very much. But I've never compared the size of my affections for the two most important women in my life. That is, if feelings can ever be measured.

"I would like to think my heart became bigger in order to accommodate the two loves of my life," I replied.

In fact, I would like to think that I am loving my not-getting-younger mother more because I was raised by my grandmother.

Because I was raised by my grandmother, it warms my heart today whenever I see my own daughter cuddled up in bed and sharing stories with her grandmother, my mother-in-law.

Thanks to the love from my grandmother, I am loving my mother through her own ageing years, grateful to see the bond form between my daughter and her grandmother, and looking forward, if I am blessed enough, to become a grandmother myself one day.

Family ties like these bind us, enrich us, enfold us in the embrace of love, family and tradition.

This Chinese New Year, I wish all grandparents and elders good health and happy reunions.

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• The writer, a former journalist with The Straits Times, is now Storytelling Director with Sweet, Singapore Press Holding's creative and content marketing unit.

Through the pain, do not send wrong signals about NS

Ting Kheng Siong

After the grieving, the SAF has to pick itself up, lick its wounds and dust itself off, then take up its guns and keep moving forward on its way once more.

The spate of incidents involving casualties has left morale at Mindef and the Singapore Armed Forces at an unprecedented low. A review of safety procedures is necessary, but the wrong signal should not be sent, whether through public discourse or post-review measures, because Singaporeans and (people in) neighbouring countries alike are watching the repercussions of Aloysius Pang's unfortunate death during training in New Zealand.

In fact, the extreme comments on social media are to be expected.

But it would be missing the point when things get blown up to the extent of opposing national service

(NS), policies and systems, and the Government.

In 2013, the Committee to Strengthen National Service commissioned the Lee Kuan Yew School of Public Policy to conduct an independent study to get a better idea of Singaporeans' views on NS.

The study showed that Singaporeans are basically very positive about NS, with as much as 98.4 per cent agreeing that NS was necessary for the defence of Singapore, and to ensure the country's development and prosperity.

The accuracy of the survey aside, Singaporeans' support for NS and the SAF is undeniable. And it was because of such strong public support that the two-year, full-time NS and 10-year in-camp training can continue to be implemented, despite high individual and economic costs.

The people's support is also why

the Government allocates huge budgets to Mindef every year, giving it the confidence and means to purchase fighter planes that cost more than \$100 million.

If people start to question now whether NS is necessary, if operationally ready NSmen should shoulder certain responsibilities, and whether the tempo and intensity of military training should be reduced, this could send the wrong message both domestically and abroad.

At a recent conference, Mr Bilahari Kausikan, former permanent secretary of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs, clearly pointed out that Singaporeans should not confuse NS policy" with "training safety". He said that realistic military training is vital as there will be no deterrence without it.

The greatest paradox of military training is, the more one trains with the mentality that war is only an "if", the "if" will eventually disappear and war will brazenly manifest itself. On the other hand, the more one takes training seriously, the "if" will be magnified, deterring wars from breaking out.

A real-life example would be the intrusion of Malaysian government vessels into Singapore territorial waters. Without a strong military force, what is there to back up our diplomatic negotiations?

There were also other messages that were subtler, but can lead to unexpected results with different interpretations and extrapolations.

At the command call held on Thursday, the SAF further emphasised the need for commanders to be responsible for

the safety of the soldiers, and that they adopt a "zero tolerance" attitude towards safety violations.

While this is a well-intentioned directive, it will be difficult to find the right balance during implementation.

The orders that cascade to every level, and the pressure of public opinion, will eventually fall on the shoulders of the supervising platoon or section commander.

Would this lead to the negative effect of finding fault at every turn? An atmosphere where safety is of the utmost importance can easily breed the negative mindset of "the less you do, the fewer mistakes you make", and the "safest" way for national servicemen will then be to take the easy way out. This is not the outcome we hope to see.

In fact, the Singapore Army has a very comprehensive safety structure and hierarchy.

Other than the Army Safety Inspectorate, which reports directly to the Chief of Army, every combat unit has a Unit Safety Officer, who is a full-time regular soldier, and a Formation Safety Officer above him.

All exercises, outfield activities and physical training sessions must comply with training safety regulations. Even games must have training plans written down in black and white, with a risk assessment checklist. A safety officer will also be present to supervise safety matters during the activity.

There is a myriad of safety regulations in the army and it is not possible to list them all here. In fact, during training, many commanders often have to strike a balance

between safety procedures and realistic training.

This time, the SAF called for a safety timeout after the incident, halting all strenuous activities such as military exercises and training, runs, foot drill, outfield training, the Individual Physical Proficiency Test and remedial training.

Aside from preventing accidents from happening again, the purpose of the timeout is, I believe, to send the signal to Singaporeans that the SAF is serious about conducting a review, and also convey the severity of the matter to servicemen of all ranks.

However, if the message is not communicated properly, and ends up diluting the SAF's typically-strict requirements towards training, the delicate balance between safety and military training standards will tilt the other way.

• Ting Kheng Siong is Lianhe Zaobao's associate chief sub-editor.

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An SAF guard of honour waiting to receive the body of Corporal First Class (National Service) Aloysius, Pang in Singapore on Jan 25. His death while on a training exercise in New Zealand prompted the SAF to call for a safety timeout. PHOTO: MINDEF

What science can learn from religion

David DeSteno

Science and religion seem to be getting ever more tribal in their mutual recriminations, at least among hard-line advocates. While fundamentalist faiths cast science as a misguided or even malicious source of information, polemicising scientists argue that religion isn't just wrong or meaningless but also dangerous.

I am no apologist for religion. As a psychologist, I believe that the scientific method provides the best tools with which to unlock the secrets of human nature. But after decades spent trying to understand how our minds work, I have begun to worry that the divide between religious and scientific communities might not only be stoking needless hostility; it might also be slowing the process of scientific discovery itself.

Religious traditions offer a rich store of ideas about what human beings are like and how they can satisfy their deepest moral and social needs. For thousands of years, people have turned to spiritual leaders and religious communities for guidance about how to conduct themselves, how to coexist with other people, how to live meaningful and fulfilled lives – and how to accomplish this in the face of the many obstacles to doing so.

Biologist Richard Dawkins, a

vocal critic of religion, has said that in listening to and debating theologians, he has "never heard them say anything of the smallest use". Yet it is hubristic to assume that religious thinkers who have grappled for centuries with the workings of the human mind have never discovered anything of interest to scientists studying human behaviour.

Just as ancient doesn't always mean wise, it doesn't always mean foolish. The only way to determine which is the case is to put an idea – a hypothesis – to an empirical test.

In my own work, I have repeatedly done so. I have found that religious ideas about human behaviour and how to influence it, though never worthy of blind embrace, are sometimes vindicated by scientific examination.

Consider the challenge of getting people to act in virtuous ways. Every religion has its tools for doing this. Meditation, for example, is a Buddhist technique created to reduce suffering and enhance ethical behaviour. Research from my own and others' labs confirms that it does just that, even when meditation is taught and performed in a completely secular context, leading research participants to exhibit greater compassion in the face of suffering and to forgo vengeance in the face of insult.

Another religious tool is ritual, often characterised by the rigid following of repetitive actions or by

engagement with others in synchronous movement or song. Here, too, an emerging body of research shows that ritualistic actions, even when stripped from a religious context, produce effects on the mind ranging from increased self-control to greater feelings of affiliation and empathy.

Ritual can also play a part in strengthening beliefs. Research on cognitive dissonance has shown that publicly stating beliefs that we don't initially endorse leads to a psychological tension that is often remedied by altering our beliefs and behaviour to match our public pronouncements. Thus the religious practice of repeatedly stating beliefs as part of prayers – as in the Catholic mass – may enhance devotion to a creed.

What findings like these suggest is that religions offer techniques – or "spiritual technologies", in the words of Krista Tippett, the host of the radio show On Being – that help people endure difficulties, change their views or move them towards action. These techniques seem to work by nudging our behaviour subconsciously.

Tippett stresses that the specific religious traditions from which such techniques are borrowed should be understood and honoured on their own terms. But when I spoke with her recently, she also agreed that the techniques might work even when separated from their religious trappings, as

Rabbi Geoffrey Mitelman, the founding director of Sinai and Synapses, an organisation that seeks to bridge the scientific and religious worlds, told me recently that science can help clergy better aid those they counsel by showing which types of social and behavioural practices are empirically most likely to foster their emotional, moral and spiritual goals.

meditation and elements of ritual have been shown to do.

If this view is right, religion can offer tools to bolster secular interventions of many types, like combating addiction, saving money and encouraging people to help those in need.

This possibility dovetails with a parallel body of research showing that by cultivating traditional religious virtues such as gratitude and kindness, people can also improve their ability to reach personal goals like financial and educational success.

When I broached this body of

research with cognitive scientist and religious sceptic Steven Pinker, he emphasised that it was by no means a vindication of religion as a whole. He made a point to differentiate between what he called religious practices and cultural practices, with religious ones being those more likely to have doubtful supernatural rationales (like using prayer to contact a deity for favours) and cultural ones having more practical justifications (like using ritual to foster connection and self-control).

While I can see his point – and I agree with him that religion as a whole must be judged by its full set of positive and negative effects – the dividing line between cultural and religious can be blurry. The Jewish practice of Shabbat, for instance, stems from a divine command for a day of rest and includes ritualistic actions and prayers. But it's also a cultural practice in which people take time out from the daily grind to focus on family, friends and other things that matter more than work.

My purpose here isn't to argue that religion is inherently good or bad. As with most social institutions, its value depends on the intentions of those using it.

But even in cases where religion has been used to foment inter-group conflict, to justify invidious social hierarchies or to encourage the maintenance of false beliefs, studying how it manages to leverage the mechanisms of the mind to accomplish those nefarious goals can offer insights about ourselves – insights that could be used to understand and then combat such abuses in the future, whether perpetrated by

religious or secular powers.

Science and religion do not need each other to function, but that doesn't imply that they can't benefit from each other.

Rabbi Geoffrey Mitelman, the founding director of Sinai and Synapses, an organisation that seeks to bridge the scientific and religious worlds, told me recently that science can help clergy better aid those they counsel by showing which types of social and behavioural practices are empirically most likely to foster their emotional, moral and spiritual goals.

A yearning for a science-religion synergy is growing in some circles. Tippett cites as an example the Formation Project, an initiative designed by a group of millennials who are looking to cultivate their inner lives and form a community by combining ideas from psychology and neuroscience with practices from ancient spiritual traditions. In doing this, she points out, these young people are not blindly accepting any doctrine. They are asking questions and choosing what works based on evidence.

In short, they are doing exactly what I think the communities of scientists and clergy need to do in a more rigorous way and on a much larger scale.

Will it work? That's an empirical question. But if we choose not to investigate it, we'll never know. And I suspect we'll be the poorer for it. NYTIMES

• David DeSteno, a professor of psychology at Northeastern University, is the author of Emotional Success: The Power Of Gratitude, Compassion, And Pride.

Huawei case: High stakes for US and China



Goh Sui Noi

East Asia Editor

China came in for some flak for its rather harsh response to Canada's detention of Chinese telecoms equipment giant Huawei's senior executive Meng Wanzhou at the request of the United States.

"Thuggery" was how one columnist writing in The South China Morning Post, Mr Philip Bowring, described Beijing's detention of two Canadians on suspicion of engaging in activities that harm national security, days after Meng's arrest on Dec 1.

A third Canadian was sentenced to death last month for drug smuggling in a one-day retrial, following his appeal after having been given a 15-year jail term in November.

This is not the first time that China has retaliated against Canada's detention of a Chinese national. In 2014, weeks after Chinese hacker Su Bin was arrested

in Canada, also on an extradition request from the US, Beijing detained a Canadian couple, accusing them of gathering intelligence material, a move seen as a response to the hacker's arrest.

Su was moved to the US in 2016 to face trial and sentenced to nearly four years' jail for taking part in a conspiracy to steal blueprints of US military jet components. As for the Canadian couple, the woman was freed after six months and her husband after 775 days.

The case of Meng, who is the daughter of Huawei founder Ren Zhengfei, is more high-profile, with higher stakes.

It is about the race to dominate the fourth industrial revolution – the next wave of change driven by the convergence of digital, biological and physical innovations – for which 5G technology is seen as an enabler and a fundamental platform.

MORE THAN JUST TRADE

Noting that Huawei is the "flagship" of China's high technology – it is the world's largest telecoms equipment maker and among the world's leaders in 5G technology – Professor Shi Yinhong of Renmin University said the US wants to maintain its own long-term standing in the high-tech arena by attacking

Huawei and taking it to court.

Indeed, said Associate Professor Li Mingjiang of the S. Rajaratnam School of International Studies, many people in China believe the Huawei case is less a legal issue than an American strategy to slow down or even block Chinese technological advancement, especially in 5G technology and in IT in general.

"The Chinese will interpret this as American strategy to prevent China from making too much progress in the technological sector and catch up with the United States technologically," he added.

The US late last month levelled 13 charges against the company and Meng, including bank and wire fraud to violate US sanctions against Iran and stealing trade secrets from US telecoms company T-mobile.

Prof Shi said the Huawei case is part of a tech war and "under certain circumstances more important than trade negotiation".

China and the US have been engaged in a tariff war since last year and are negotiating a trade deal to prevent the escalation of their trade conflict, the latest round of which took place in the US at around the time that the US announced its charges against Huawei.

While China has been tough on Canada, it has been relatively soft on the US over the Huawei case,

possibly because it does not want to jeopardise its trade talks with the US. No American in China has been detained in retaliation against Ms Meng's arrest in Canada, which is at the behest of the US.

Both the ambassadors of Canada and the US have been summoned by the Chinese foreign ministry. But while Canada was warned of "severe consequences" if Meng was not released, the American envoy was told "China will make further response according to the US' actions".

If China were to go after Americans in retaliation, it could create a challenge to the trade talks, noted Prof Li. "It will put (US President Donald) Trump in a very difficult position, a massive political outcry in the US would make it more difficult for Trump and his team to engage with their Chinese counterparts in the trade talks," he said.

The legal battle to extradite Meng will likely be long and could take months or years.

BLOCKING HUAWEI

In the meantime, Huawei faces other challenges.

The US has banned the use of Huawei's technology – together with that of ZTE, China's second largest telecoms equipment firm – by the government and government

contractors, and has been persuading its allies to stop working with Huawei, warning that doing so posed a national security risk.

The worry is that Huawei could be used by the Chinese government to spy on nations where it has a presence. This is especially as in 2017, China enacted a law that allows its intelligence agencies to "establish cooperative relationships with relevant individuals and organisations, and commission them to carry out related work" and "ask relevant institutions, organisations and citizens to provide necessary support, assistance and cooperation".

Said FBI director Christopher Wray last month: "As Americans, we should all be concerned by the potential for any company beholden to a foreign government – especially one that doesn't share our values – to burrow into the American telecommunications market."

He added: "That kind of access could give a foreign government the capacity to maliciously modify or steal information, conduct undetected espionage, or exert pressure or control."

The Trump administration is now mulling over an executive order to ban all US companies from using Huawei or ZTE products.

Meanwhile, its campaign overseas is seeing some success, with Australia last August banning the use of Huawei 5G equipment and New Zealand following suit in November. Other countries like France, Germany and Poland are also considering bans, while some like Canada, Norway and Britain are running security reviews of the Chinese firm's 5G technology.

While the US has called for the ban of Huawei and other Chinese tech firms on the basis of national security, the subtext is that there is a growing rivalry between it and

China in the technological arena, especially in emerging technologies like 5G.

The bans, together with the US demand that China restructure its economy to level the playing field for foreign firms, are seen in China as part of a strategy to slow down China's technological development.

Despite these moves, however, some analysts like Prof Li believe that there is still enough room for China to develop its technology.

For one thing, China has fairly strong economic power and its high-tech sector has made much progress particularly in the past 20 years. For another, it has its own big market of 1.4 billion people and a growing middle class, so its tech firms can move forward by tapping the Chinese market. And while the US and its allies are becoming more cautious in dealing with Huawei and other Chinese tech firms, "there are still many countries still dependent on Huawei and Huawei has built-in advantages that cannot be ignored", said Prof Li.

If anything, efforts to hem China in and slow down its technological development may well strengthen its resolve to push for technological dominance in the world.

Under pressure from the US, it may temporarily slow down its Made In China 2025 plan to transform its manufacturing sector by developing its high-tech industries, but it is unlikely to abandon it.

Said Prof Shi: "China still insists on its basic programme, it must in the high-tech sense become a manufacturing power."

As Chinese President Xi Jinping said in May last year, China needs to "hold innovative development tightly in our own hands" if it is to "climb to the world's top as a leading player in technology".

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What's driving Najib's 'Bossku' grassroots campaign?

Joceline Tan

There has been quite a bit of self-denial coming from Pakatan Harapan leaders in recent weeks. But one thing they cannot deny is that Najib Razak, the man that Pakatan leaders are trying to send to prison, has made waves wherever he goes.

Najib and his Bossku tagline have gained amazing momentum on social media.

His Facebook postings on his Langkawi visit have drawn likes touching six digits. A picture of him eating nasi lemak bungkus with some locals at a warung in Langkawi received a mind-boggling 104,000 likes, and they keep pouring in.

It was quite daring of Najib to head for Langkawi last Friday. (The island is part of Kedah, the home state of Prime Minister Mahathir Mohamad.)

He caused ripples from the moment he landed at the airport – people there could hardly believe their eyes.

And business almost came to a standstill when he visited the pasar malam in Kuah, the island's town centre, looking for apam balik.

But his apam balik posting on Facebook was also a dig at his detractors – some Pakatan leaders had lodged reports, asking the police to monitor Najib's presence in Langkawi. The pictures of people taking selfies with him at the Kuah pasar malam came with the comment: "Anyone knows where the counter is to apply for a permit to take selfies?"

The man once seen as a "bangsawan" or aristocrat is finally hitting the right notes.

He put up at a modest motel along Pantai Cenang. He jumped into the front passenger seat of a taxi, whereas in the old days, he would have automatically settled in the back seat.

The taxi picture came with another poke at Pakatan: "So, who's going to make another police report? I'm just looking for the best laka in town."

Many thought the Bossku phenomenon would fizzle out after



Former Malaysian premier Najib Razak (centre) caused ripples with his Langkawi visit. The island is part of Kedah, the home state of Prime Minister Mahathir Mohamad. A picture of Najib eating nasi lemak bungkus with locals received 104,000 likes, and they keep pouring in. PHOTO: NAJIB RAZAK/FACEBOOK

the Cameron Highlands election campaign last month. (Najib's social media gimmick featuring him on a motorcycle with the slogan "Malu Apa Bossku" (Why does my boss have to be ashamed?)) turned out to be a big selling point for the Barisan Nasional, resonating well with poorer young Malay voters. BN won the by-election.)

But it has not slowed down, not even after the Malaysian Anti-Corruption Commission (MACC) slapped him with three new charges of money-laundering two days after the by-election.

Former Jelutong MP Jeff Ooi, a forerunner in the use of social media, has been watching the Najib game play.

"He has time on his hands, and he is playing the disrupter role. He has an audience in the Malay heartland where Pakatan is weak, and he is trying to lock up the Malay ground for Umno. He has little to lose. If he fails, he takes the blame, if he succeeds, his party shares the credit," said Mr Ooi.

Najib has also emerged as a key opposition voice, tapping the growing Malay discontent about the government.

"Najib is now a polar attraction to

Najib's social media gimmick featuring him on a motorcycle with the slogan "Malu Apa Bossku" (Why does my boss have to be ashamed?) turned out to be a big selling point for the Barisan Nasional, resonating well with poorer young Malay voters. BN won the by-election.

Tun Dr Mahathir Mohamad. One is asking Malays to abandon Umno, the other is telling them to stay with Umno," said former Umno MP Tawfik Ismail.

At the same time, he said, Najib is trying to regain his image, to show he is down but not out. He added: "Pakatan came in with so many promises and he whittled it down, one by one, from the shrinking ringgit to the national debt. He also has a better grasp of issues than the current crop of Umno leaders. He sees the big picture."

According to political commentator Khaw Veon Szu, many are seeing another side of the former prime minister. "I don't think people miss him, it's just that he has captured the imagination of those who find that life has become tougher than before."

"They can see he has many flaws. But he also understands their problems and he has become their voice."

It is possible that Najib's growing social media fan base likes the way he pokes and nudges the ruling coalition. He uses contemporary language, and it is possible that he has eclipsed even Mr Khairy Jamaluddin among the Gen X and Y.

His attack style is unlike the harsh tactics of the former Opposition. He does not use crude language and he is not into the technicalities favoured by DAP's Tony Pua or what the Malays regard as the "Cina apek" style of Lim Kit Siang. He has a civil yet stinging way of taking on his opponents.

A new and fascinating form of political warfare is going on in social media between Najib and Pakatan leaders.

It is something Dr Mahathir is unable to match. He has too much on his plate and he is too old to master the new art of warfare.

The Prime Minister still depends on the traditional media of print and online portals whose audience has been outclassed by the power of social media.

But will the Bossku trend come to an end when Najib's court case begins in April?

"A lot of incriminating evidence will be aired, the media will play it up and the trial will be watched globally," said Khaw.

Dr Mahathir is probably hoping that the trial will stop the Bossku phenomenon in its tracks.

THE STAR/ASIA NEWS NETWORK

BIG PICTURE



WEATHER

Windy, with passing showers in the afternoon.
High 34 deg C **Low** 24 deg C
24-hr PSI as of 5pm yesterday: 24 to 52 (Moderate)



PHOTO: DPA

All set to dance in the streets

These dancers are getting ready for one of the biggest samba competitions in the world. Members of the Uirapuru Samba School on Saturday were rehearsing at the Anhembi Sambadrome,

one of the largest outdoor venues for major events in the city of Sao Paulo, Brazil, for the Sao Paulo Carnival, which will be held on March 1 and 2. Every year, thousands of visitors

head to the Carnival in Sao Paulo to experience true Afro-Brazilian culture. Various samba schools compete in a huge parade, each with its own theme, colourful costumes and elaborate floats.

Local residents are also actively involved in the creation of costumes and floats for the samba schools. The winners are usually declared on the following Wednesday.

CARPS LEAPING OVER THE DRAGON'S GATE

Watch a special performance showcasing the richness of Chinese culture.

📅 Sat, 9 Feb & Sun, 10 Feb
🕒 8.00pm - 8.20pm
📍 Supertree Grove

COLOURS OF SPRING

Take a photo with the carp lanterns painted by many creative hands.

📅 Sat, 2 Feb - Sun, 24 Feb
🕒 All day
📍 Golden Garden

TRADITIONAL LION DANCE

Discover the fascinating story told at a show full of Chinese cultural expressions, agility and wit.

📅 Sat, 9 Feb & Sun, 10 Feb
🕒 7.15pm
📍 Supertree Grove

LION DANCE ON POLES

Hold your breath as the lion leaps from pole to pole and performs heart-stopping stunts.

📅 Sat, 9 Feb & Sun, 10 Feb
🕒 7.00pm
📍 Supertree Grove

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🕒 2.00pm, 3.00pm and 4.00pm
🕒 4.30pm - 8.20pm
📍 The Canopy and Supertree Grove

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Get moving together with fun games in the Gardens with your family and win exciting prizes.
*Only for National Steps Challenge™ Season 4 participants. Other Terms & Conditions apply.

📅 Sat, 9 Feb & Sun, 10 Feb
🕒 2.00pm - 7.00pm
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Next to Bayfront MRT Exit B (For registration)

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B| HOME



BEN GOI
SON OF POPIAH KING DIES, LEAVING
BEHIND ACTRESS WIFE, BABY B2

Reunion dinner with a touch of Indian culture

Toh Ting Wei

There's nothing like cooking up a new tradition for a reunion meal, especially one that includes yusheng and the traditional Indian side dish of vegetable yogurt known as raita.

Ms Jacqueline Lui, 28, married fellow public relations executive Abraham Christopher, 30, three years ago.

When they welcomed their first child, Diana Abraham, late last year, they wanted to start celebrating reunion meals with Mr Abraham's family so Diana could grow up experiencing Chinese culture.

"We want her to learn Mandarin in the future, and we wanted to start the foundation for this with the culture," said Ms Lui.

"We told our in-laws about the re-

union dinner, and to them, it was something fun and they are open to learning something different."

Ms Lui's mother, Madam Ellen Lim, 64, worked with Mr Abraham's mother, Madam Jenet Nathan, 58, and his aunt, Ms Stella George, 55, to cook a lavish meal comprising Chinese and Indian favourites.

Mr Abraham's father, Mr Christopher George, 61, was also at the meal.

Madam Lim also introduced Mr Abraham's family members to the Chinese tradition of tossing yusheng to mark the occasion.

Ms Lui said: "It's quite normal for us to get together because we live near each other, but what is significant is the lohei (tossing of yusheng)."

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(From left) Ms Stella George, Mr Christopher George, Madam Jenet Nathan, Mr Abraham Christopher, Ms Jacqueline Lui, with eight-week-old Diana Abraham, and Madam Ellen Lim tossing yusheng during their Chinese-Indian reunion dinner. ST PHOTO: DESMOND WEE

Woman hurt in MRT escalator accident

Escalators started working before shutters opened at airport station

Zhaki Abdullah

A woman and her two children were injured when they fell on a moving escalator at Changi Airport MRT station on Jan 27, after they and other commuters were caught between the escalator and the unopened shutter door to the station.

An eyewitness told The Straits Times that the escalator began operating at about 5.30am, leading some to ride it down as they thought the station had opened for service. At the foot of the escalator, however, they found the shutters

were still closed, leading to a crowd being formed there.

While train service at the station typically begins at about 5.30am from Mondays to Saturdays, it starts only at about 6am on Sundays – when the incident occurred.

"It was too crowded to be safe," said science teacher Ian Stuart, 69, who was there at the time.

This led to some people walking up the downward-moving escalator, added the Australian national.

In the confusion, the woman, believed to be in her 30s and accompanied by two young children, fell on the escalator. There was blood ev-

erywhere, said Mr Stuart.

"I gave first aid by pressing a scarf that someone had passed me onto her head wound to stop the bleeding and took her to the passenger service centre, so she could sit down as she was in shock," he added.

In an e-mail to Mr Stuart seen by ST, an SMRT customer relations officer apologised and said the staff on duty had failed to comply with standard operating procedures before starting the escalators.

SMRT's vice-president for corporate communications Margaret Teo

SAFETY BRIEFINGS continued on B2



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Popiah King's son dies in KL at 43

Businessman who married former television actress died on Sunday

Choo Yun Ting and Rahimah Rashith

Businessman Ben Goi, son of Popiah King Sam Goi, died in Kuala Lumpur on Sunday morning. He was 43.

His body was brought back to Singapore on Sunday night, Channel 8 reported yesterday. The cremation will be at Mandai Crematorium on Thursday morning. Several public figures paid their respects at the wake, which is being

held at Mr Goi's home in Bukit Timah. They included ministers Heng Swee Keat, Vivian Balakrishnan, Masagos Zulkifli and Josephine Teo. Former foreign minister George Yeo was also there.

Mr Heng, who left the wake around 4pm, said he did not know the late Mr Goi personally but knew the elder Mr Goi. "It's very sad for his family. He just got married and has a kid," Mr Heng said. "It must be devastating

for Sam and the family." MP Teo Ser Luck described the news as heartbreaking. He got to know Mr Ben Goi when they were on a company board, and described him as "very friendly, a very nice guy".

Mr Ben Goi married Malaysia-born former TV actress Tracy Lee in 2017 in a wedding which was widely covered in the media.

He was the chief operating officer of Tee Yih Jia, a food manufacturing business which his father Sam Goi expanded from a manufacturer of popiah – or spring roll – skin into a global Asian food company.

The younger Mr Goi also held other positions, including managing director of Montigo Resorts, and had worked in a number of other companies before.

Singapore artists, including Terence Cao, Chew Chor Meng and Zhu Houren, were seen at the wake. They declined to speak to reporters.

Ms Lee, 33, a former Mediacorp Star Search contestant, announced last May that she had given birth to their first child, a son.

In an Instagram post announcing the birth, Ms Lee wrote in Chinese: "I love you, my precious, I will love you and your father just as much... I don't ask for much, just that you grow up happily and healthily, and I will have no regrets."

Their wedding dinner at the Shangri-La Hotel in September 2017 made headlines. Guests in-

cluded celebrities and VIPs such as former Singapore president Tony Tan Keng Yam and his wife, Emeritus Senior Minister Goh Chok Tong and Defence Minister Ng Eng Hen.

Ms Lee acted in several Mediacorp productions but left show business after she chose not to renew her contract in 2015.

In a 2017 interview with local magazine 8Days, she said she met her husband through mutual friends in 2010, but the couple started dating only in 2016.

Mr Sam Goi, a father of four who is in his early 70s, was No. 14 on Forbes Singapore's 50 Richest 2018 list with an estimated fortune of US\$1.8 billion (S\$2.4 billion).

He was born in China's Fujian province and came to Singapore as a young boy but did not complete his secondary education. In 1977, he acquired Tee Yih Jia, then a small pastry factory, and designed an automated system to transform the company's operations.

The elder Mr Goi, who is also executive chairman of listed property developer GSH Corp, was on several government committees.

He was also active in grassroots work, and recently stepped down as chairman of the Ulu Pandan Citizens' Consultative Committee.

Last year, he was appointed Singapore's non-resident ambassador to Brazil.

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Left: VIPs and celebrities paid their respects at Mr Ben Goi's funeral wake at his home in Bukit Timah. Above: Mr Goi married former Mediacorp actress Tracy Lee in 2017. PHOTOS: MARK CHEONG, TRACY LEE/INSTAGRAM

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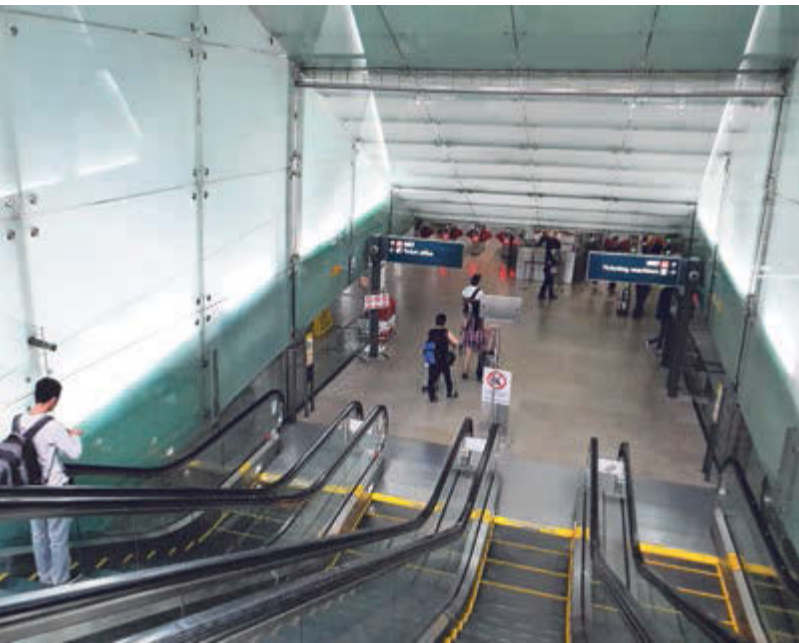
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Teacher Ian Stuart suggests it should be made impossible for the escalators to be activated before the shutter door opens. ST PHOTO: ZHAKI ABDULLAH

Station teams briefed

FROM B1

told ST that station staff immediately rolled up the shutter door and gave first aid to the injured commuters, who were taken to the hospital. They were discharged on the same day.

SMRT has continued to reach out to them to provide the necessary assistance, she added, saying: "This should not have happened and we are sorry for the incident."

"As part of station operating procedures, shutter doors have to be opened before an escalator is switched on for service," Ms Teo said. "On that morning, one of our station staff did not comply with this procedure. The station staff, who has been on the job for about a month, has since been counselled and disciplinary action will be taken against him."

SMRT has conducted safety briefings to all station teams on strict compliance to procedures, she said.

The Singapore Civil Defence Force had confirmed it was alerted to an incident and an adult and two children were taken to the National University Hospital.

More can be done to prevent a recurrence of the incident, said Mr Stuart.

He suggested, for example, that it should be made impossible for the escalators to be activated before the shutter door is opened.

Checks by ST last week found the shutter doors at the entrances to the station, from both Terminal 2 and Terminal 3, to each be about a metre away from the bottom of the escalator, with little room for commuters to manoeuvre if they find themselves in a similar situation.

Lawyer Chia Boon Teck said as SMRT is in charge of the premises, it is therefore responsible for safety lapses at the station.

Said the co-managing partner of Chia Wong LLP: "As SMRT is vicariously liable for the negligence of its employees, injured individuals resulting from the incident are entitled to look to SMRT for compensation for their injuries suffered, including medical expenses incurred, general damages for pain and suffering, and any other reasonable consequential losses."

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Study to look into this condition which could be early sign of neuro-degenerative disorder

Retiree Cheung Kau once dreamt that he was playing football – and ended up kicking his wife while asleep. Another dream had the 75-year-old jumping over a drain to escape some thugs – only to fall off the bed with a thud.

His dreams at night often involve intense – and even violent – movements, a far cry from his cordial and pleasant demeanour in the day.

Many people do not think these sleep episodes are a problem, but they may indicate an underlying medical condition known as rapid eye movement (REM) sleep behaviour disorder, where patients act out their dreams at night.

"I would end up punching or kicking my wife without knowing it," said Mr Cheung, who suffers from the neurological sleep disorder. "The dreams last a few minutes. Sometimes, there can be several continuous dreams in one night."

"I would feel tired in the morning, even though I usually sleep about nine hours every night."

The prevalence of this disorder in Singapore is unknown, but it is estimated that under 1 per cent of the population here have the condition, and the National Neuroscience Institute (NNI) plans to conduct an in-depth study next year.

The condition is said to be an early sign appearing years before the diagnoses of other neuro-degenerative disorders, such as Parkinson's disease, multiple system atrophy and Lewy body dementia. The NNI study aims to determine the factors predicting the development of these other disorders.

Patients have “very vigorous and violent movements”, including intense arguments and violent thrashing of the limbs during the REM sleep phase – a phase of sleep where dreaming occurs, Dr Xu Zheyu, a consultant at the NNI’s neurology department, told The Straits Times.

Such episodes, which last from seconds to minutes, can occur once in several months to as often as nightly. For some, these episodes occur a few times every night.

Most patients are men older than 50, but it also affects teens and individuals in their 20s.

"A nice guy with the condition can become violent at night," said Dr. Xu. "They can punch or kick their partners, or even fling themselves out of the bed – often without knowing. They find out what they have done only when their partners tell them the next morning."

A typical patient can often recall his vivid dreams. Once, Dr Xu's patient dreamt she was being attacked and ended up punching a nearby cupboard.

But many people do not see it as a medical problem. Patients have been known to experience such episodes for years, and even decades, before seeking help.

"They tend to brush it off as a normal phenomenon, an unusual dream or a sign of ageing," said Dr Xu. "Yet such vigorous and violent movements during their sleep can endanger their loved ones and themselves. It is common for patients to avoid seeking medical attention or treatment until they injure their partners."

For Mr Cheung, he first knew there was something odd in 2012, when his 68-year-old wife told him about the extreme sleep episodes.

Yet he did not see a doctor immediately, thinking these would go away. "But I knew something was wrong. It isn't normal for people to have such violent movements during sleep and my family was worried," said Mr Cheung, who saw a doctor months later.

Luckily, he and his wife have not suffered any injuries. The couple, who have four children aged between 32 and 42, live in a four-room HDB flat in Choa Chu Kang.

To treat the condition, doctors first conduct a sleep study to confirm the diagnosis. Treatment options include medication such as melatonin to combat jet lag and sleep problems like insomnia, or clonazepam, which helps relieve anxiety symptoms and certain types of seizures. The drugs have been found to be helpful in eliminating injurious behaviour.

Dr Xu said: "Early diagnosis and treatment help to reduce episodes of self-injury and allow for the monitoring of the development of future neuro-degenerative disorders."

Current studies suggest that over 90 per cent of patients will eventually develop one of these disorders.

Some patients have resorted to sleeping in another room or removing dangerous items within grasp, to avoid hurting themselves and their loved ones. Others pad up

their beds or switch to special frames to avoid falling off the bed.

Mr Cheung now relies on clonazepam to help with his condition. His family has also installed a safety bed rail on his side of the bed.

"I still act out my dreams, but they are less frequent and the movements are less vigorous," he said. "I can now sleep better at night, and my family doesn't have to worry."

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Retiree Cheung Kau's dreams at night often involve intense – and even violent – movements, a far cry from his cordial and pleasant demeanour in the day. ST PHOTO: JONATHAN CHOO

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Ring in the new year at the CNY cabin

It was a Christmas cabin but with the help of Woodlands Housing Board residents, it has been transformed for Chinese New Year. The "snow-topped" log cabin in front of Block 178 Woodlands Street 13 now sports decorations such as Chinese couplets, the God of Fortune and Chinese lanterns.

Mr Tan Koon Tat, 58, told The Straits Times he took about a month from Christmas to make the changes. The carpenter has been putting up festive decorations for over 10 years, including for Deepavali and Hari Raya Aidilfitri. Some neighbours chipped in to help with the Chinese New Year makeover.

For this year's cabin, in conjunction with the Year of the Pig, he added a pig figure dressed as a God of Fortune, alongside a traditional human God of Fortune figure.

"This gives people two options. If they don't want to take pictures with the pig, they can take with the human God of Fortune," he said.

He had sought feedback from Malay residents before constructing the pig decoration, and showed them some pictures of what he intended to put up. "They accepted it, as they said it was a Chinese tradition," said Mr Tan. "Also, the pig is done in a cartoonish style. I even added glasses to it."

ST PHOTO: SAHIBA CHAUDHARY



Apex court: Yacht dealer can keep \$774k deposit

Money paid to keep two boats off market for 3 weeks, but tycoon later did not buy either

K. C. Vijayan
Senior Law Correspondent

A yacht dealer will get to keep a €500,000 (\$774,000) pre-contract deposit paid by a late Indonesian tycoon after Singapore's top court reversed a High Court judgment to refund the money to his estate.

The Court of Appeal held that Mr Jiapto Jiaravanon, who died sud-

denly in 2015 at age 40, had made the payment on the basis that two yachts would be kept out of the market for three weeks for him to decide which one he wanted to buy.

"Jiaravanon's decision not to purchase either yacht did not cause a total failure of basis because the payment was not made on the basis that a contract of purchase would be executed," said Judge of Appeal Andrew Phang in decision grounds released last month.

The court, which included Judges of Appeal Judith Prakash and Tay Yong Kwang, said yacht dealer Simpson Marine was "not unjustly enriched" when no purchase took place because the yachts were taken off the market and its offer to Mr Jiaravanon was kept open for the agreed time.

"Therefore, we are satisfied there was no failure of consideration. Accordingly, Jiaravanon is not entitled to restitution," said the court.

It cited a separate case in which claimants received an option to buy a property within an agreed period for an agreed price and the defendant was not unjustly enriched when no purchase materialised.

This is because the defendant had taken the property off the market and kept its offer to the claimants open for the agreed period.

Mr Jiaravanon, who died after the suit began, was said to be a third-generation member of the Chearavanont family, which controls the Thailand-based Charoen Pokphand Group, one of the largest Thai agribusiness conglomerates.

He was vice-president-commissioner of Charoen Pokphand Indonesia TBK, part of the Charoen Pokphand Group Indonesia, comprising over 200 companies, primarily in the agriculture business.

After his death, his widow, Anita, carried on with the proceedings as his estate's administrator.

He had sued Singapore-based Simpson Marine (SEA) in this case involving Italian-built Azimut Benetti yachts.

In April 2013, Mr Jiaravanon deposited €1 million to secure two specific 100ft-long yachts, identifiable by their hull numbers, until May 15, 2013, at which time the funds were to be used as down payment for either yacht. He paid the sum to Simpson on April 29, 2013, by which time, Azimut had sold one of the yachts to another buyer.

Simpson said at a May 2013 meeting in Hong Kong Mr Jiaravanon then agreed to use the deposit to secure two yachts identified as 100L #15 and 100G #15 until May 31, 2013, so that he could choose between them and the deposit was to help fund the sale. Mr Jiaravanon denied such a deal was reached.

On May 9, 2013, Simpson remitted the deposit to Azimut but Mr Jiaravanon later refused to buy an Azimut yacht in the 100ft series.

On July 31, 2013, a compromise was reached: Half of the €1 million deposit was used to pay for an earlier Azimut yacht purchase by Mr Jiaravanon and the remainder became the subject of the dispute.

Mr Jiaravanon, represented by lawyers Anna Oei and Deannie Yap, won restitution of the sum at the High Court in 2017. Simpson's lawyers - Mr Prem Gurbani, Mr Bazul Ashhab and Mr Lionel Chan - appealed against the ruling.

The Court of Appeal found there was sufficiently cogent evidence to show that Mr Jiaravanon had agreed on May 8, 2013, for the deposit to be used to hold the two yachts until at least May 31, 2013. This included the manner in which the parties conducted themselves, which was consistent with the alleged agreement.

While Simpson need not return the €500,000, it remained liable to pay €186,551 to Mr Jiaravanon's estate for resale costs as it did not appeal against the High Court order.

This costs referred to commission fees which Simpson charged Mr Jiaravanon in relation to a separate yacht which he did not accept and was sold to a third party instead.

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DREAMS FUNTASIA:

VIBRANT, COLOURFUL, EXCITING

There's something for everyone at Chingay 2019

BY RACHEL TAN

A static painting put together by three renowned home-grown artists and over 100,000 Singaporeans and permanent residents will come to life during this year's Chingay parade.

More than 240 performers will help transform the 270m by 7m canvas into a moving storyline, depicting the nation's past, present and future - from an early sea port to present-day modern metropolis and the limitless aspirations for the future.

Also happening "live" at the parade site will be its creators - abstract artist Ng Yak Whee, surrealist artist Rosihan Dahim and Rangoli artist Vijaya Mohan - adding the finishing touches to

the months-long piece of work. It will also be used to commemorate Singapore's Bicentennial.

In the past five months, over 100,000 Singaporeans and permanent residents have left their fingerprints on the canvas. The painting is only one of the many highlights of this year's Chingay experience.

Themed "Dreams Funtasia (Bicentennial Edition)", the annual parade with more than 6,500 participants from more than 150 organisations revolves around the 200th anniversary commemoration of Sir Stamford Raffles' landing in Singapore in 1819 and the aspirations of the young city-state.

More than 25 new groups will take centre stage for the first time, such as Cheerforce SG, Singapore Cricket Club, Singapore Recreation Club, Singapore Fashion Runway and The Shichida Method. With the participants performing in smaller groups, spectators will get to enjoy better close-up views of the non-stop actions and performances.

For the second consecutive year, the open space behind the Singapore Flyer will be transformed into a whimsical Chingay wonderland. The three-day carnival will feature live performances by young local performers, a fun zone, an art zone and an F&B zone, offering activities for the whole family before, after and alongside the parade. There will be a mini Karting circuit, arcade games, bouncing castles and instagram-worthy art installations. Visit chingay.org.sg for more information.

PARADE

- Feb 15 & 16
- 8pm - 9.30pm
- F1 Pit Building
- Tickets available from APACTix.com
- Prices from \$28.50

CARNIVAL

- Feb 15 to 17
- 3pm - 10pm
- Open space behind the Singapore Flyer
- Free admission

TICKETS GIVEAWAY

Question: What is the theme for Chingay Parade 2019?

Email your answer to PA_SCENE@pa.gov.sg with your full name, contact number and email address by 10 February 2019 and five lucky winners will stand a chance to win a pair of tickets to Chingay Parade 2019 on 15 February 2019. Winners will be notified by email.

Returning and new participants share their thoughts



"I have been a volunteer for about four years. The most challenging role is to ensure that the float is in the correct position. I enjoy interacting with people of different generations."

- Ms Nur Syafiqah (right) student at BCA Academy



"Shichida puts a lot of emphasis on family bonding and we are grateful for the chance to be involved in the performance as a family."

- Ms Dolna Daruwalla & Family The Shichida Method



"I am glad to participate in Chingay this year with nine of my family members. It allows me to spend quality time and bond with them through the training and learning of dance steps."

- Mr Shukor Sazali Ahmad & Family





Fourth-year engineering undergraduate Jodie Loi is one of the first students to apply for the NUS Global Mentorship Programme. She said that she has always wanted to explore a career with a global element and is curious to find out more about the working world. ST PHOTO: JOSEPH CHUA

Learning from mentors with global work experience

NUS' Global Mentorship Programme, which starts in August, is open to all its undergrads

Amelia Teng
Education Correspondent

Students from the National University of Singapore (NUS) are to get the rare opportunity of learning from top executives who have experience working around the world.

Launched last week by the university at its career fair and managed by the NUS Centre for Future-ready Graduates, the NUS Global Mentorship Programme is open to all NUS undergraduates across its faculties.

Applications are open for the programme's 50 places until March 31. Students will be accepted based on whether there is a good fit between their interests and the mentors' expertise.

It will begin in the next academic year in August and has been launched in addition to the overseas exchange programmes, overseas colleges and internships that the NUS already offers.

More than 30 working professionals have been selected as mentors, bringing expertise and experience

from different sectors including technology, finance, engineering, education and the non-profit sector. They are either based overseas, have experience working abroad or hold a regional role.

Students can approach their mentors throughout the semester for advice on career development or industry insights.

Fourth-year engineering undergraduate Jodie Loi, one of the first students to apply for the scheme, said she has always wanted to explore a career with a global element.

The 21-year-old is even delaying her graduation by a year to go for an internship with the tech arm of an insurance company in Shanghai

STUDENTS NEED TO THINK GLOBAL

Companies increasing their global footprint value employees who can understand cultural sensitivities, build relationships across different markets and work effectively in a diverse international team... It is therefore vital for our students to think global, be nimble and seize the opportunities before them.



NUS PRESIDENT TAN ENG CHYE, on the rationale behind the programme.

later this year.

This is on top of a six-month internship she had already completed as a research assistant in a glass and chemicals company in Japan last year and an exchange programme in South Korea during her holidays.

"Staying overseas makes me see the world in a smaller way. Despite the differences in culture, there are a lot of similarities," said Ms Loi, who also spent four years in high school in Australia before returning to Singapore.

Yet the younger of two daughters, whose father is a retired salesman and mother a civil servant, is still curious to find out more about the working world.

She said: "In terms of career direction, I'm not very clear. I think hearing from someone more experienced would be helpful and I hope the mentorship can last longer.

"I want to know how they got to where they are, which part of the industry would fit my interests and how I can grow."

NUS alumnus Lim Cheng Teck, one of the mentors, wants to share his experiences to help undergraduates in their career path, especially when it comes to developing leadership skills.

The 58-year-old, who was with Standard Chartered Bank for more than 28 years, has held senior positions such as regional chief executive of Asean and chief executive of Singapore.

"I hope that students would be able to benefit from practical career experience... and gain a head start in their careers," said Mr Lim, who is currently chairman of a Singapore-based fintech start-up.

Mentor Michele Lai Chin, 30, from Qvest Media, which provides consulting and development, and systems support, said: "Business today is international and cross-cultural communication is a key differentiator."

NUS president Tan Eng Chye said: "Companies increasing their global footprint value employees who can understand cultural sensitivities, build relationships across different markets and work effectively in a diverse international team.

"Many are also looking to expand into South-east Asia, a culturally diverse region that collectively makes up the world's fifth-largest economy. It is therefore vital for our students to think global, be nimble and seize the opportunities before them.

"The new NUS Global Mentorship Programme will give our students a stronger, global edge in their careers."

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The blood (above) from an elderly man's decomposing body seeped through the ceiling of a flat below his unit in Tampines last Tuesday because of the porous nature of the concrete. The ceiling of the flat belonging to his neighbour Ms Jamilah (right) has since been repainted. PHOTOS: LIANHE ZAOBAO



Blood seeping through flat's ceiling not structural issue: MP

Goh Yan Han

The blood that seeped through the ceiling of a Tampines Housing Board flat last Tuesday – that later led to the body of an elderly man being found in the unit above – was not due to an issue with the ceiling's structural integrity.

Rather, it happened because of the porous nature of the concrete ceiling, Tampines GRC MP Baey Yam Keng told The Straits Times yesterday.

"So there should not be anything wrong with it. Only the toilet area would have a waterproof mem-

brane in the ceiling to keep water from passing through," he said.

He was giving an update on the case in which a 77-year-old man was found dead in a Tampines Street 43 flat.

The blood from his decomposing body had seeped through the floor and dripped from the ceiling of his neighbour's unit below.

Mr Baey added that he had seen similar cases before.

The neighbour, who wanted to be known only as Ms Jamilah, made the grisly discovery last Tuesday morning after noticing a strange smell in her flat. She traced the odour to a dark red liquid dripping

from the ceiling of her master bedroom.

The police were called and investigations revealed that the man had died of natural causes.

The ceiling of Ms Jamilah's master bedroom has since been repainted, said Mr Baey in an Instagram post on Sunday, adding: "Although it was not a pleasant experience, Ms Jamilah took it in her stride."

Mr Baey told ST that the HDB repainted Ms Jamilah's ceiling on Saturday, and when he visited her on the same day, it "looked as good as new".

The repainting was done out of

goodwill by HDB, and could be done only when the blood had stopped dripping and dried.

He visited the wake of the man, known only as Mr Ho, on Saturday and spoke with his family.

In his Instagram post, Mr Baey said: "According to his children, their father had died of a heart attack and they were looking forward to their weekly family dinner on Jan 30."

Mr Baey told ST that the late Mr Ho insisted on living alone as he had not wanted to leave all his good friends in the neighbourhood by moving in with his children.

"He had a very active social life and would spend evenings and nights drinking with his friends at the coffee shop," he added.

"His children told me that his drinking (friends) and even some of the beer promoters came to pay their respects at the wake."

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NOTHING WRONG WITH CEILING

There should not be anything wrong with it. Only the toilet area would have a waterproof membrane in the ceiling to keep water from passing through.



TAMPINES GRC MP BAEY YAM KENG, on the structural integrity of the ceiling.

Google partners SMU to offer data analytics course

Lester Wong

Singapore Management University (SMU) undergraduates looking to enter the data and analytics sector are getting a leg-up.

The university last Thursday signed an agreement with Google Singapore to offer the SMU-Google Squared Data & Analytics Programme.

The partnership marks the first time Google is extending its programme, launched in 2014, to undergraduates of a local university.

It had previously been run as a collaboration between Google and the Infocomm Media Development Authority (IMDA) under the latter's TechSkills Accelerator initiative, and was open to fresh graduates in Singapore.

The programme will now be available only to SMU undergraduates.

Under the work-study programme, students will undergo a six-month internship at a Google partner company and earn credit. They will also return to campus for up to one day a week during term time to read up to two additional courses.

Google Singapore's country director Stephanie Davis said the tie-up made sense as Google was looking to scale up the programme due to broad trends in the digital economy and increasing demand from employers for Squared Data trainees.

"The feedback was positive over the first four years of the programme, and over time it only strengthened. We were also learning of the successful careers that graduates were embarking upon and even greater demand from employers in the marketplace," said Ms Davis.

"The good news then was, how do we work together to scale, and that's when with the IMDA we began looking for a partnership with a local university. SMU, with its long-time commitment to working with data and analytics, just seemed like the perfect solution."

The inaugural batch of 25 students is in the midst of completing a 12-week digital analytics technology course prerequisite, including sessions with industry subject-matter experts from Google and its partners. In previous years, this component was a six-week full-time affair.

The students are due to start their internships with the likes of Dentsu Aegis Network, Grab and Expedia in May.

A second batch of 50 students is expected to follow later this year. This would represent a significant increase in programme graduates, of which there are more than 90 from the programme's first four years.

SMU president Lily Kong said work-study electives and longer internships provide an optimal balance between institution-based learning and on-the-job training.

"Through the programme, our students will gain valuable experience and obtain a better understanding of the demands and opportunities in these industries," said Professor Kong.

Google Squared Data & Analytics programme and SMU alumnus Jordon Yuen, 28, said data and analytics cut across all sectors in the business world, making such a skill set very valuable.

"You will be able to apply what you've learnt across a very wide range of real-world situations and I feel it's important for business students to have some kind of data and analytics background," said Mr Yuen, who graduated from SMU in 2016 and is now an analytics manager with advertising data agency Essence.

Infocomm professionals are in high demand in Singapore.

The economy currently employs about 200,000 infocomm and media professionals, with a 2017 IMDA survey projecting demand for infocomm professionals to rise by 28,500 between 2018 and 2020.

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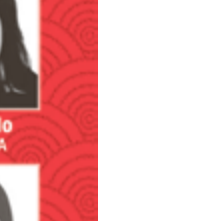
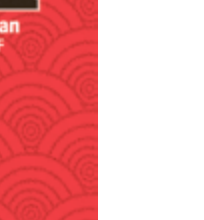
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Standing (left to right): Edmund Lee (KEO) R023385H, Raymond Khoo R023428E, Ken Lim R023131F, Geraldine Tan R029176I, Michael Tan R023423D, Jimmy Teow R023182J, Daniel Ling R023232J
Seating (left to right): Sunny Kee (CDO) R002116H, Kenneth Tan (Director), Philip Chan (CEO) R028757E, Albert Lu (Director) R027925D, Nelson Lim (KEO) R023304A

Congratulations to C&H Top Producers, Best Category and Superstar Award Winners for their outstanding performance in 2018

2018 TOP PRODUCERS

 Daniel Ling R023232J	 Shen Khaw R023192H	 Kelvin Lam R023539G	 Jacob Tan R023287H	 Jessica Foo R023631H	 Egna Ling R023518D	 Terence Lee R023110C	 Joseph Lee R023167G	 Thia Sia Eng R023483E	 Simon Tong R023171E						
 Irene Low R023050F	 Ricky Teo R023298A	 Marilyn Yee R028997G	 Chng Guan Aik R023588E	 Ken Lim R023131F	 Wendy Teo R023248G	 Willy Tan R023507I	 Cindy Kan R023194D	 Emily Ho R023244D	 Florence Lim R023259B	 Andrew Chua R023255Z	 Derrick Poh R023144H	 Adeline Chow R020316I	 Josephine Teo R023355F	 Jenny Chen R023201J	
 Lee Han Sing R023385G	 Nancy Seah R023637G	 Anthony Lee R023674Z	 Edmund Lee R023385H	 Margaret Eg R023428E	 Daphne Phoa R023402A	 Joyce Kuah R023278I	 Betty Ma R011183I	 Violet Pang R023379C	 Wilson Aw R023313J	 Raymond Khoo R023428E	 Charles Ng R058185F	 Geraldine Tan R029176I	 Ruth Ho R023488I	 Theresa Ng R023558C	 Leng Yoon Chun R023052B
 Raymond Ang R023394G	 Thomas Low R023448Z	 Gary Lee R023520F	 Freddy Choo R023417Z	 Rebecca Loke R023164B	 Josephine Chua R023542G	 Daphne Wong R023624E	 Kalen Chan R023297G	 Connie Ng R023432C	 Evelyn Tay R023532Z	 Melissa Ling R056897C	 Kasminah R023526E	 Maggie Png R005313B	 Koh Lye Hock R023054I	 Sally Quek R023097B	 Joyce Ho R023383A
 Mark Sim R042385A	 Linda Ong R023241Z	 Jennifer Ong R023556G	 Violet Tan R023173A	 Tina Chng R023137E	 Miranda Lee R023137E	 Judy Tan R030844J	 Alex Low R018882H	 Linda Low R01113H	 Boh Tuan Kim R02481G	 Ken Seah R023404H	 Lily Cheong R040192J	 Patrick Ong R023384C	 Han Hai Juan R023372F	 Anne Wan R023368H	 Nur Hidayah R057237G
 P. T. Florence R023264I	 Helen Au R05665D	 Alex Eu R023418H	 Greenie Choo R023447A	 Angie Choy R016485F	 Lily Hoong R023180D	 Julia Tan R049111I	 Raymond Koh R029729E	 Angela Han R023049B	 Adeline Lee R023388B	 Angelia Tan R023570B	 Richard Sua R023473J	 Janet Law R023042E	 Serena Tan R023311D	 Jenny Tan R023551F	 Tan Bee Lian R023494C
 Joyce Lim R023384Z	 James Liang R023169C	 Edmund Kong R023239H	 Jimmy Lim R023290J	 Allan Koh R023125A	 Steven Goh R023559A	 Steven Ho R031265J	 Angela See R023621J	 Florence Khoo R023532D	 Tony Tan R023362Z	 Serena Law R023442D	 Wilson Teo R023406D	 Henry Tan R014676A	 Esther Sharon R023061A	 Derek Yap R023177D	 Melvin Han R023158F
 Andrea Judy Ong R023467F	 Saripah B. Mohidi R023040H	 Lynn Koh R023341F	 Andy Choo R010323G	 June Khoo R023256H	 Kelvin Ho R023109Z	 Angela Chan R048133I	 Vivien Vera R0445290	 Henny Rosalia R023615F	 Lee Geok Chew R023491I	 Ivy Chan R023277J	 Nigel Tan R048378A	 Margaret Lim R023245B	 Nathaniel Ng R023074C	 Colin Tan R023537J	

2018 BEST CATEGORY AWARD WINNERS

 Daniel Ling R023232J Top Producer (Overall)	 Daniel Ling R023493E Top Pte Residential (Sales)	 Thia Sia Eng R023483E Top Pte Non-Residential (Sales)	 Terence Lee R023110C Top HDB (Sales)	 Jacob Tan R023167G Top Pte Residential (Rental)	 Shen Khaw R023192H Top Pte Non-Residential (Rental)
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20 YEAR SUPERSTAR WINNERS

 Marilyn Yee R028997G 1st Top Team Leader	 Joseph Lee R023167G 2nd Top Team Leader	 Geraldine Tan R029176I 3rd Top Team Leader	 Willy Tan R023507I Service Excellence Award
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5 YEAR SUPERSTAR WINNER

 Edmund Lee R023385H	 Joyce Kuah R023278I	 Adeline Chow R020316I
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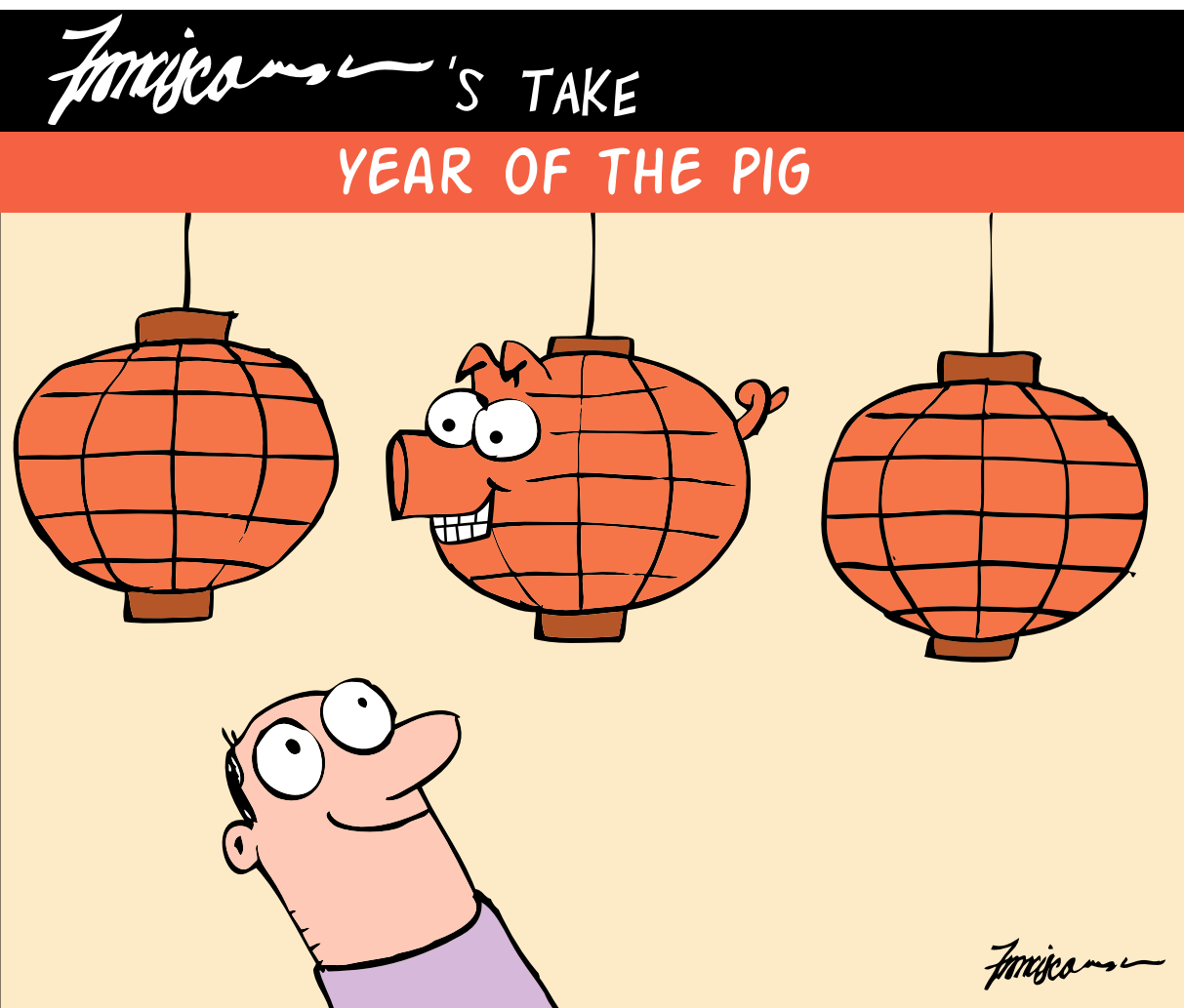
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FORUM



Stop ‘local abductions’ in divorce cases

The move by the Family Justice Courts and the Immigration and Checkpoints Authority to put in place measures to prevent children from being spirited away from Singapore when their parents’ relationship sours is a step in the right direction (Move to stop child abduction by a parent; Jan 20).

However, concerns have also been raised over cases of children being “abducted”, when one parent denies the other access to the child, without having to leave the country (Tackle practice of denying kids access to other parent in divorce cases, by Mr Gordon Quek; March 19, 2018).

Such “local abductions” subject young children to no less trauma and psychological harm than their overseas equivalents.

As the Family Justice Courts’ former presiding judge Valerie Thean said previously, children who are snatched from the other parent can suffer mental health issues, such as depression and psychotic episodes, even into their adulthood.

I urge the Government and courts to send a strong signal against such behaviour, and take firm action against parents and lawyers who engage in such practices.

Heather Lim (Ms)

Ensure anti-abduction rule doesn’t cause more conflict

The Family Justice Court (FJC)’s move to introduce new rules to prevent international child abduction by a divorcing parent is a positive step in considering the psychological well-being of children in the divorce process.

However, it is pertinent to note that this is an issue which concerns a small percentage of children affected by divorce in Singapore every year (Move to stop child abduction by a parent; Jan 20).

While implementing this new rule, the authorities should also be mindful of negative complications which may arise, and ensure that it does not unduly create more areas of conflict for the thousands of other divorce cases which currently present no such risk.

They should take the following steps to prevent its misuse:

First, divorce cases can stretch over several years, and in our current adversarial court system, problems associated with it often persist for many years after.

This new rule introduced must not be indiscriminately used by a vindictive and unreasonable parent, or their lawyers, to prevent the other parent from taking the child overseas on vacation or to visit friends and relatives.

Its application should be restricted to only instances where there is a real risk of permanent international abduction.

Second, the process to seek and enforce such a court order should be navigable by the layman and should not have to be applied through lawyers.

Given the outcry over lawyers’ fees, and to ensure equal access, the FJC has an obligation to ensure that its services and rules when implemented do not add layers of bureaucracy, but rather simplify procedures to efficiently achieve intended outcomes.

Also, divorce and other family-related disputes are often sensitive personal matters, and parties naturally want and have a right to keep them private.

With the sharing of private and personal information across agencies, that is, with the Immigration and Checkpoints Authority, and via unsecured e-mail and paper forms, what measures are in place to protect the privacy and security of said information?

Ian Chan Eng Kiat

Private entities should be required to get permits to install CCTVs

Closed-circuit television cameras installed by private entities overlooking public spaces, as well as dash cams in vehicles, are a boon in terms of curbing anti-social behaviour and crime, but they may be a bane to privacy too.

In Singapore, where there are police cameras and artificial intelligence-operated cameras on the roads, is it necessary for private individuals and corporations to install such cameras of their own?

The Personal Data Protection Commission should publish updated guidelines on surveillance equipment overlooking common corridors in private residential estates and public spaces.

Private entities wishing to install such cameras should be made to get a permit and display it prominently. Similar guidelines are in force in the United Kingdom and Hong Kong.

Lee Kwet Ngiap

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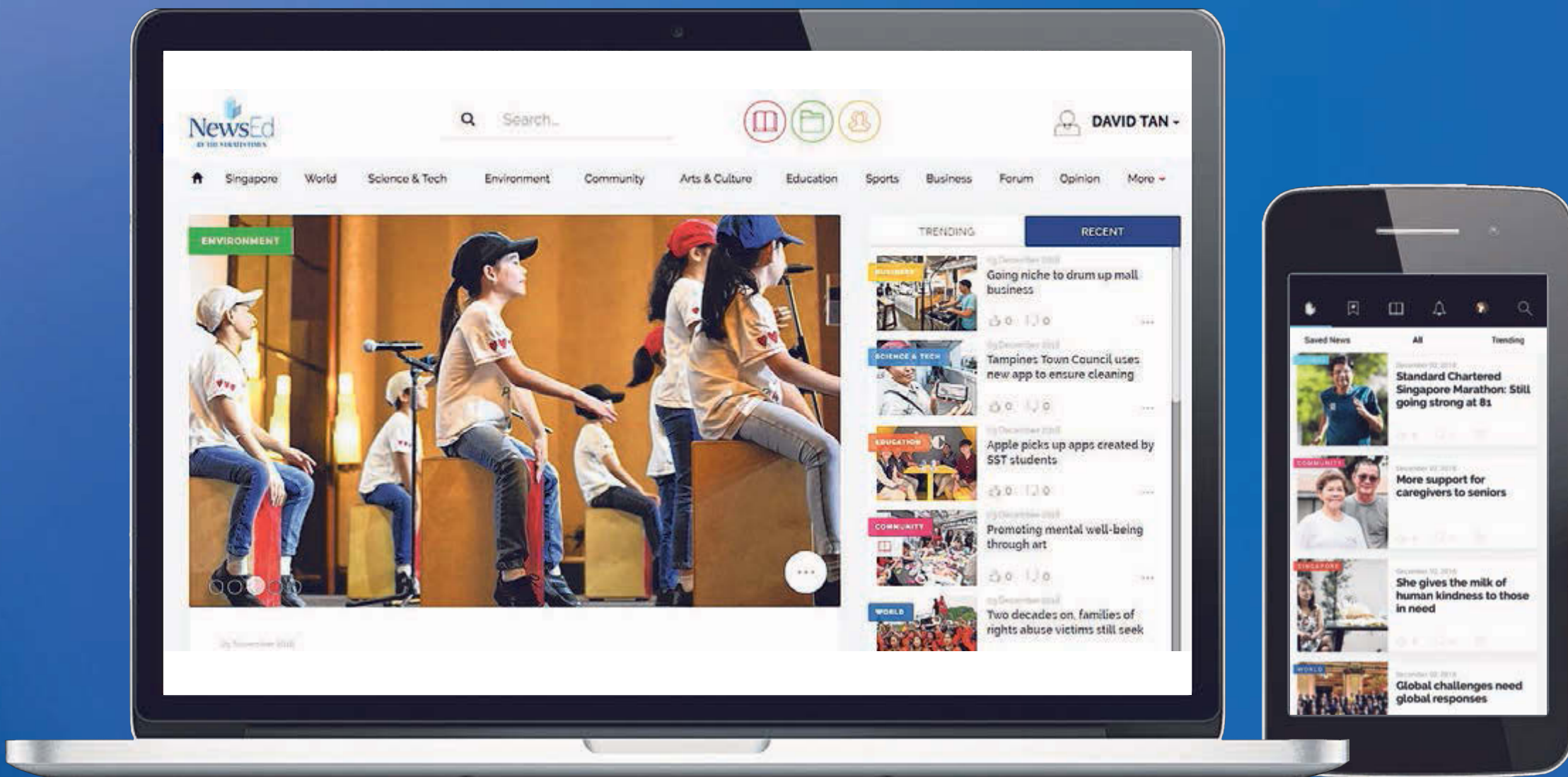
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Everyone loses if trust in Govt is lost

Just too many things have been going wrong lately – the Singapore Armed Forces, Health Ministry and Singapore Post incidents.

We appear to be in denial that the problem – across the board – is systemic. Individual Committees of Inquiry (COIs) can only go so far. There's an urgent need for a whole-of-government response.

The first step to solving a problem is to acknowledge it.

It is not unreasonable for public servants – including political leaders – to provide an explanation when things go wrong. The aim, however, should not be to protect the organisation or its leaders even when there has been wrongdoing.

It's disingenuous for public servants to see defending the Government when things go wrong as their primary duty. Their accountability is to the people, who expect them to do the right thing.

This often translates to not fudging or sweetening the issues, defining the problem as it really is, and solving it decisively. By acting with integrity in such situations, public servants can help boost public trust in government.

Second, we need to identify common threads running through the various critical incidents.

One that stands out pertains to systems and processes. These can't be designed on the assumption that

they will be used correctly all the time.

Instead, a good system must assume human error and frailties, and compensate for them.

Also, there appears to be an over-reliance on systems. Basic human instincts to observe, spot, think, respond and react are not exercised enough.

Over time, these cease to be instincts. The problems arising from this are evident in all the recent incidents.

Finally, and importantly, we must address the critical role of human behaviour and attitude in these incidents.

We all respond to risk and reward

conditions. When there appears to be a routinised response when things go wrong – media conference, COI, apology – there's the risk of us getting used to things going wrong and accepting it.

There's an urgent need for us to get out of this vicious circle.

This will only happen if the leadership at the highest level sends an unequivocal signal that those in charge will be held accountable.

It cannot continue to be business as usual.

If nothing concrete is done to revive public confidence and trust in the Government, we all lose.

Viswa Sadasivan

Build special flats for those with autism

There is a need to provide housing options for those with special needs.

The Housing Board could, for example, consider building an apartment block with affordable soundproofed units for those with autism who can live independently.

Those with autism have very particular needs and have difficulty compromising, which means each unit should house only one person.

Freedom is much more important than comfort for many people with autism who have unhappy and dysfunctional relationships with their families.

Renting a room in the open

market costs a hefty \$800 a month. Low-cost rental flats are in short supply too.

HDB's policy forbidding singles below the age of 35 from purchasing flats further stifles available possibilities.

Many parents are very concerned about what will happen to their adult children after they die, with most seeing little option but to keep their adult children confined at home.

We should start thinking out of the box for sustainable options that empower adults with autism to take care of themselves.

Dino Trakakis

Move towards plant-based diets good for health too

The recent article (Want to go flexitarian? Do it gradually; Jan 18) has brought awareness to how current dietary habits are harming the planet.

While the report was referring to the health of the planet being in trouble, we should not forget that our health is at stake too.

In a national study done by Health Promotion Board in 2010, 1.7 million Singaporeans were found to be susceptible to developing diseases related to obesity, such as

heart diseases and diabetes.

There is an urgent need for the people in Singapore to work towards healthier eating habits.

Contrary to expert beliefs, local dishes that are dear to most Singaporeans can be made plant-based. Some examples include plant-based versions of chicken rice, laksa, rendang and briyani.

Besides a culinary awakening, we need to equip Singaporeans with the nutritional knowledge on how

to substitute animal-based proteins with a variety of plant-based proteins, such as tempeh, tofu, lentils and beans.

As with any behavioural-change campaigns, we need to work on reaching out to all parts of society.

As nutritional needs vary with age, it would be useful to develop nutritional food guides for different stages in life.

A recent example would be Canada's new food guide, which emphasises plant-based proteins

and does not promote meat or dairy as a main component.

A key target would be students in schools, who can be guided to form healthier eating habits.

It is of paramount importance that we allow them to enjoy their favourite foods through a whole food, plant-based diet rather than sugary drinks and processed meats which are prevalent in school canteens today.

Healthier plant-based food options should also be subsidised to make healthier diets affordable, and unhealthy options should be taxed.

Sumita Thiagarajan (Miss)

SMC must consider wider implications of its rulings

It is good that the Singapore Medical Council (SMC) has taken seriously the concerns of more than 4,000 people who signed a petition seeking clarification on informed consent (SMC: Doctors not expected to inform patients of all possible complications; Jan 31).

Their statement that doctors are not expected to inform patients of all possible complications goes some way towards allaying doctors' fears. However, they failed to provide clear objective guidelines

on how much information qualifies as valid informed consent.

The explanation for the harsh sentence is unsatisfactory.

To put this into perspective, SMRT was fined \$400,000 in February 2017 for safety lapses leading to an accident that killed two people near Pasir Ris MRT station the previous year (SMRT fined \$400k over fatal accident; March 1, 2017).

The punishment meted out to Dr Lim Lian Arn was not for causing

harm or for poor treatment. It was for the simple error of inadequate documentation on one particular occasion.

Doctors, like everyone else, cannot be expected to always be free from error. Yet, the SMC's harsh sentencing suggests that this is exactly what is required.

It is a standard that is humanly impossible to maintain in a field as complex as medicine.

Facing harsh punishments for what most see as minor offences

will make all doctors practise in a climate of fear.

It is unrealistic to expect doctors not to practise defensive medicine in such a climate of capricious punitive action for the least error. This will result in increasing costs of medical care.

I urge the SMC to seriously consider the wider implications of its rulings and the direction it is pushing medical practice towards.

I sincerely hope these concerns are taken seriously in formulating the new sentencing guidelines for doctors.

Andrew Yam (Dr)

OnFacebook

Do you think Singapore's football ecosystem is in need of reform?

The administration needs to relook the enjoyment that young players get when they learn the game. Coaches often lack the fundamental coaching ethics and leadership, and only focus on skill development and "drills".

I have seen many young coaches resort to what they went through when they were coached, and then adopt these, thinking, perhaps erroneously, that what worked for them will work now too.

Lionel Teo

Football should remain a social thing in Singapore, you know, a weekend kick-about among a group of friends.

Invest heavily in sports where we have medallists at the Olympic, Paralympic and World Championship levels, sports like swimming, silat, shooting and bowling.

Matthew Liew

Should surrogacy be legalised for couples who are unable to conceive?

Whether the clients are infertile or homosexual or anything else is not relevant to the consideration of whether surrogacy exploits women of lesser financial means.

Patricia Choy

Experience overseas shows how children's lives are cheapened when they are treated as a "right"; defective babies are aborted or abandoned with the surrogate, and surrogates pressured to terminate "extra" babies in a multiple pregnancy.

And the sums of money offered in poor countries tempt women to rent their wombs instead of bettering their lot through study and work – often with little follow-up medical or psychological care. Just because a couple desperately wants a baby does not mean they are entitled to one by any means possible.

Umm Yusof

STwine

our best picks

Wines to go with CNY dishes

Here are ST Wine's top 10 picks and the food to pair them with



Deep Wood Estate Cabernet Sauvignon Hillside 2016

Country: Australia

Usual price: \$75

ST Wine price: **\$66**

Food pairing: Braised noodle, bak kwa and nian gao



Salvalai Monile Ripasso Corvina 2014

Country: Italy

Usual price: \$70

ST Wine price: **\$55**

Food pairing: Pan-fried beef, barbecued red meats and dumplings



Isabel Estate Pinot Noir 2016

Country: New Zealand

Usual price: \$75

ST Wine price: **\$66**

Food pairing: Roasted duck and fish dishes



Koyle Royal Syrah 2009

Country: Chile

Usual price: \$60

ST Wine price: **\$52**

Food pairing: Roasted and grilled meat, curry



Tenuta Di Corte Giacobbe Suove 2017

Country: Italy

Usual price: \$45

ST Wine price: **\$38**

Food pairing: Lobster, grilled fish, abalone, smoked salmon lo hei and other seafood



Chateau La Mauleone, Lalande De Pomerol 2013

Country: France

Usual price: \$50

ST Wine price: **\$43**

Rating: RP 92 points

Food pairing: Buddha jumps over the wall, pen cai, braised and other stewed dishes



Montes Limited Cabernet Sauvignon Carmenere 2016

Country: Chile

Usual price: \$43

ST Wine price: **\$39**

Rating: JS 91 points

Food pairing: Roasted meats, preserved meats



Kalleske Clarry's Grenache-shiraz-mataro 2017

Country: Australia

Usual price: \$55

ST Wine price: **\$49**

Food pairing: Peking duck and roasted suckling pig



Kaiken Terroir Series Torrontes 2016

Country: Argentina

Usual price: \$39

ST Wine price: **\$33**

Food pairing: Teochew-Cantonese style steamed fish, steamboat and chicken dishes



Koyle Auma 2013

Country: Chile

Usual price: \$180

ST Wine price: **\$168**

Rating: RP 93 Points

Food pairing: Roasted meats, roasted pork, bak kwa, lasagna, cold cuts

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Homes for fire victims

The launch of five blocks of flats in 1961, containing 904 one-room, semi-communal units, all of which were occupied by Bukit Ho Swee fire victims. The rent was \$20 a month.

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Capturing life in the Rohingya refugee camps in Cox's Bazar in Bangladesh were The Straits Times' associate editor Rahul Pathak (left), artist Pradip Kumar Sikdar (middle), and executive photojournalist Kua Chee Siong. The ST team spent nine days in the Rohingya camps in July 2018.



BUSINESS



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FORMER SMRT CEO
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The Financial Times last week published two reports about alleged wrongdoing at Wirecard's Singapore office, sending shares in the member of the blue-chip DAX tumbling. PHOTO: REUTERS

Singapore police probing German e-payment firm

Move comes after media reports about alleged fraud and forgery involving Wirecard office here

Singapore police are looking into matters related to German digital payment firm Wirecard, whose shares have crashed amid allegations of executive forgery and fraud involving its Singapore office.

A spokesman for the Singapore Police Force said this yesterday in response to media queries.

Its Commercial Affairs Department carries out investigations on financial crimes such as money laundering.

The move comes after the Financial Times last week published two

reports about alleged wrongdoing at Wirecard's Singapore office, sending shares in the member of the blue-chip DAX tumbling.

Wirecard's 25 per cent plunge was the worst since July 2008 and capped a tumultuous three days that shaved about €7.2 billion (\$11 billion) off its market value.

Last Friday, the Financial Times reported that an external law firm commissioned by Wirecard found evidence indicating "serious offences of forgery and/or of falsification of accounts".

Rajah & Tann lawyers identified potential civil and criminal violations in Singapore, Hong Kong, India, Malaysia and Germany, findings that formed the basis of a presentation to Wirecard's senior management on May 8 last year, the

newspaper said.

Wirecard denied the story, a point it reiterated yesterday, saying that an external law firm it brought in to investigate actions by a member of its finance team in Singapore made no conclusive findings of criminal misconduct by any employee of the company.

Wirecard said that in April last year, a Singapore team member raised concerns about the alleged actions of a finance team member in Singapore. It then started an investigation, which found no evidence to support the allegations.

"Furthermore, there were indications that the allegations could be related to personal animosity between the employees involved," the company said.

Nonetheless, Wirecard hired Ra-

Last Friday, the Financial Times reported that an external law firm commissioned by Wirecard found evidence indicating "serious offences of forgery and/or of falsification of accounts".

jah & Tann for a review, which is about to be completed, but has so far not brought up findings of criminal misconduct, the company said.

Rajah & Tann had separately said it is unable to comment about the company. "Regrettably, we cannot

respond to your queries at the moment due to sensitivities," a spokesman for the Singapore law firm said over the weekend in response to Bloomberg.

Meanwhile, German financial regulator BaFin is looking into the allegations for signs of possible market manipulation. Last Friday, BaFin spokesman Anja Schuchardt said the regulator is at the beginning of its investigation and will take the new report into account.

Founded in 1999, Wirecard initially provided financial services to online gambling and adult websites, barely surviving the dot.com bust. After a decade of growth, the company last year replaced Commerzbank in Germany's benchmark DAX index. Hailed as a champion of the fintech scene, it then boasted a market valuation of more than €23 billion.

It is not the first time Wirecard has had to defend its reputation.

Its shares plunged after past claims were published about accounting irregularities in 2008 and fraud allegations in 2016.

But analysts have stayed true to the company, with 79 per cent recommending investors buy the stock, according to data compiled by Bloomberg, REUTERS, BLOOMBERG, AGENCE FRANCE-PRESSE

Honestbee gets nod to pilot new industrial space concept

Home-grown Honestbee is the first start-up to receive approvals to incorporate a large-scale retail operation as part of its industrial land's ancillary use – a move that suggests greater flexibility from the authorities in dealing with new business models.

In October last year, the start-up launched Habitat by Honestbee, a tech-enabled grocery and dining concept that occupies 60,000 square feet of space in an industrial building at Boon Leat Terrace.

Honestbee is keen to roll out Habitat – a marketplace comprising food and beverage concepts as well as a supermarket with an automated cashless checkout system and a robotic collection point – in the seven other Asian markets in which it operates.

A spokesman for the Urban Redevelopment Authority (URA) said: "With business structures and requirements evolving, we recognise the need to provide flexibility for businesses to co-locate ancillary uses that support their core industrial activities, and to pilot new business ideas."

"With support from Enterprise Singapore, we allowed ancillary retail uses for Honestbee to pilot new technologies and innovation for their business in an industrial premise."

Industrial land – that is, land zoned B1 and B2 – is primarily used for industrial activities.

The guidelines require at least 60 per cent of an industrial development's total floor area to be used for core industrial activities, while allowing a maximum of 40 per cent for ancillary uses. Habitat follows those guidelines.

The URA said it evaluates requests for ancillary commercial uses on a case-by-case basis, looking at factors such as the site context, impact on the surroundings, and support from economic agencies when the proposal has strong merits in the areas of business innovation, productivity and technology.

Honestbee did not respond to queries.

Cushman & Wakefield's senior director of research, Ms Christine Li, said: "The more liberal approach adopted by the Government is encouraging for home-grown start-ups, as Singapore embarks on the Smart Nation journey and taps future economic opportunities presented by the rise of the digital economy."

She added: "As the lines blur between logistics and retail, the Government shows its willingness to experiment with new solutions which will promote more prevalent adoption of new technology."



Honestbee is keen to roll out Habitat – a marketplace comprising food and beverage concepts as well as a supermarket with an automated cashless checkout system and a robotic collection point – in other Asian markets. PHOTO: HONESTBEE

"This will send a very positive signal to the business community that the Government is working as a partner alongside them to ensure

the success of Singapore's home-grown companies. It will be even more encouraging if the Government could widen the support for

enterprises which are undergoing digital transformation, but face challenges in the actual execution." ZACD Group executive director

Nicholas Mak highlighted there is widespread recognition that e-commerce is here to stay, at least for another decade.

"The authorities likely feel they should give e-commerce firms some leeway to experiment. However, e-commerce companies must be able to convince the authorities that they are introducing new retail concepts or testing out new technologies in order to get the necessary approvals."

He also pointed out that consumers still appear to prefer a hands-on retail experience for certain categories.

Back in 2015, JTC also developed LaunchPad in Buona Vista to create an ecosystem to support the growth of promising tech start-ups.

It began with Block 71, a joint initiative between the Media Development Authority (now known as Infocomm Media Development Authority), JTC, and partners such as NUS Enterprise to support start-ups in the infocomm and media industries.

A JTC spokesman said it expanded LaunchPad to a total of eight blocks in one north.

"Today, LaunchPad @ one-north houses around 800 start-ups, and 50 enablers that support these start-ups in the areas of mentorship, market access and funding."

Ex-SMRT CEO Desmond Kuek to join UBS

He will be divisional vice-chairman for global wealth management and will be based in S'pore

Joanna Seow

Former SMRT chief executive Desmond Kuek, who left his job at the transport operator last August, is joining Swiss investment bank UBS as its divisional vice-chairman for global wealth management.

The bank said in a statement yesterday that Mr Kuek, 55, will start work on Feb 18, and be based in Sin-

gapore. He will report to UBS' head of ultra-high net worth business, Mr Joe Stadler, and Asia-Pacific president Edmund Koh.

Mr Koh said he is happy to be working with Mr Kuek, whom he said can handle pressure well.

"He is tenacious, always calm under pressure and not afraid to take on the toughest challenges with commitment and perseverance.

"His rich and diverse range of experiences driving complex businesses through innovation and transformation will serve UBS well into its next chapter," he said.

UBS, in response to queries, said



UBS said Mr Desmond Kuek's wealth of experience as an executive, government official and board member "will be of great value in strengthening our relationships with existing clients, forging new ones and growing our business across the Asia-Pacific". PHOTO: UBS

accidents and incidents such as tunnel flooding.

He oversaw its delisting from the Singapore Exchange in 2016 and the operator's migration to a new financial framework.

The former army general was chief of Defence Force from 2007 to 2010, and was permanent secretary in the Ministry of Environment and Water Resources before moving to SMRT.

He has been on the boards of Singapore Technologies Engineering, Defence Science and Technology Agency, Housing and Development Board, Jurong Town Corporation, International Enterprise Singapore and the Civil Service College.

He also founded and chairs leadership consultancy Genium & Co, which was registered last July.

UBS said Mr Kuek's wealth of experience as an executive, government official and board member "will be of great value in strengthening our relationships with existing clients, forging new ones and growing our business across the Asia-Pacific".

Mr Kuek said in the statement: "I'm looking forward to starting on this exciting new role with the incredible team at UBS."

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Oil prices firm on Opec-led supply cuts, sanctions against Venezuela

Oil prices were stable yesterday, largely maintaining gains from the previous session as Opec-led supply cuts and United States sanctions against Venezuela provided the market with support.

International Brent crude oil futures were at US\$62.76 per barrel at 0507 GMT yesterday, one US cent above their last close. Brent rose by more than 3 per cent in the previous session to their highest close since Nov 21.

US West Texas Intermediate (WTI) futures were at US\$55.20 per barrel, down six US cents from their last settlement.

WTI settled 2.73 per cent higher in the last session at its highest close since Nov 19.

Output declines from the Organisation of the Petroleum Exporting Countries as they make good on their pact to curb a supply overhang were compounded by falling US oil rig counts and sanctions on Venezuelan oil sales.

"While Venezuela's output reportedly rose last month, fresh US sanctions on the country could see 0.5 to 1 per cent of global supply curtailed," said commodities analyst Vivek Dhar for Commonwealth Bank of Australia in a note yesterday.

The sanctions will sharply limit oil transactions between Venezuela and other countries and are similar to those imposed on Iran last year, experts said after examining details posted by the Treasury Department.

Opec oil supply fell last month by the largest amount in two years despite sluggish production declines from Russia, according to a Reuters survey.

Russian oil output last month missed the target for the output

cuts, Energy Ministry data showed on Saturday.

Production last month declined to 11.38 million barrels per day, but that was only down by 35,000 bpd from its October 2018 level that is the baseline for the pact.

Russian Energy Minister Alexander Novak has said the country's overall cuts from the October baseline would total 50,000 bpd last month. Russia has pledged to reduce oil output by 230,000 bpd from October.

US energy firms last week cut the number of oil rigs operating to their lowest in eight months, to 847, as some drillers followed through on plans to spend less on new wells this year.

"The collapse in oil prices late last year has resulted in more cautious spending by US oil explorers," said Mr Dhar.

Meanwhile, hopes for thawing China-US relations have also helped ease concerns over slowing economic growth.

"While the United States and China have yet to reach a deal, markets were buoyed by reports that they have made significant progress," ANZ Bank said in a research note.

US President Donald Trump last week said he would meet with Chinese President Xi Jinping, perhaps twice, in the coming weeks to try to seal a comprehensive trade deal with Beijing, but acknowledged it was not yet clear whether a deal could be reached.

Overall, Fitch Solutions said yesterday oil markets had a "fundamentally bullish outlook due mainly to the supply cuts led by Opec as well as increasing oil demand despite the slowdown in economic growth". REUTERS



China's service firms added to their payroll numbers last month. The resilience of the service sector, which accounts for more than half of China's gross domestic product, is key to countering the ongoing slowdown in manufacturing. PHOTO: REUTERS

China's service sector sees solid growth in Jan

BEIJING • China's sprawling service sector maintained a solid pace of expansion last month even though growth moderated slightly, a private survey showed on Sunday, offering continued support for the world's second-largest economy as manufacturing cools.

The Caixin/Markit services purchasing managers' index (PMI) fell slightly to 53.6 last month from 53.9 in December, but well above the 50 mark separating growth from contraction.

Overseas sales continued to support the sector, with new export business rising at the fastest clip in more than a year, due to efforts among Chinese service firms to attract foreign clients. Overall new or-

ders also ticked higher, to 52.6 from 52.3 in December.

The resilience of the service sector, which accounts for more than half of China's gross domestic product, is key to countering the ongoing slowdown in manufacturing.

Chinese factories have been hit by a long-term restructuring of industries, a crackdown on pollution and China's trade tensions with the United States.

"Overall, China's economic growth was weighed on by weakening domestic demand in January, although exports improved marginally as the Sino-US trade negotiations flagged signs of progress," said Dr Zhong Zhengsheng, director of macroeconomic analysis at

CEBM Group. China's policies to support domestic demand and developments in the trade war "will remain key to the prospects of the Chinese economy", he added.

"Given that the government has refrained from taking policies of strong stimulus, the downward trend of the economy may be hard to turn around for the time being."

Caixin's composite manufacturing and services PMI, also released on Sunday, slipped to 50.9 last month from 52.2 in December. The January manufacturing PMI, announced last Friday, was 48.3, the lowest since February 2016.

Beijing has taken a raft of measures in the past year to encourage growth - reducing the levels of

cash that banks must hold as reserves to spur lending, cutting taxes and fees, and expediting infrastructure spending.

Resolving trade tensions with the United States remains key to improving sentiment and lifting the outlook for Chinese exporters.

Illustrating how China's service sector is holding up, service firms added to their payroll numbers last month. Inflation pressures eased, with operating costs and output charges rising at a slower pace.

Caixin's upbeat readings for services were consistent with an official survey published last Thursday that showed the industry picked up for a second straight month in January. REUTERS

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Aussie bank regulators to come under new watchdog

Govt inquiry also calls for industry overhaul of remuneration to cut conflicts of interest

CANBERRA • Australia's corporate regulators will be subjected to a new oversight body in a shake-up of the banking sector recommended yesterday by a high-powered independent inquiry into financial sector greed and malpractice.

The government-appointed inquiry known as a Royal Commission also advised in its landmark report that remuneration structures across the industry be overhauled to remove systemic conflicts of interest.

The commission's recommendations were released by the government after 11 months of shocking revelations of financial wrongdoing that wiped A\$60 billion (\$\$58.7 billion) from the country's top finance stocks.

"The price paid by our community has been immense and goes beyond just the financial," Australian Treasurer Josh Frydenberg said as the government promised to take action on all the recommendations. "Businesses have been broken, and the emotional stress and personal pain have broken lives."

The inquiry's recommendations still need to be approved by Parliament.

The inquiry revealed misconduct had reached into the sector's upper echelons, with top wealth manager AMP engaging in board-level deception of a regulator over the deliberate charging of customers for financial advice it never gave, costing the fund manager its chairman, chief executive and several directors.

The final report from Commissioner Kenneth Hayne, a former High Court justice, found that the industry's problems were exacerbated by an unwillingness by corporations to accept responsibility.

"That is, there remains a reluctance in some entities to form and then to give practical effect to their understanding of what is ethical, of what is efficient, honest and fair, of what is the right thing to do," the report said.

Ahead of the report's release, shares in the "Big Four" banks all closed up about 1 per cent as investors hoped that the report would at least end months of uncertainty in the sector.

However, wealth managers, whose reputations were shredded in the inquiry, were punished with IOOF Holdings stock closing down 4.5 per cent and AMP sliding to a record low. The broader market closed 0.5 per cent higher.

The Royal Commission made 76 recommendations that included a renewed focus on the corporate and prudential regulators which, it said, should be subjected to a new oversight authority.

Regulators were routinely accused throughout 68 days of Royal Commission hearings of working too closely with the banks. When misconduct was revealed, it either went unpunished or the consequences did not reflect the seriousness of what had been done, the inquiry found.

The Royal Commission used its final report yesterday to recommend that regulators use infringement notices for administrative failings, rather than issues that should be referred to a judge.

The institutional impropriety revealed during the past 12 months hurt some of society's most vulnerable customers, highlighted by the case of a blind pensioner being persuaded to guarantee a loan without being warned of the risks.

In a separate incident, an insurer used aggressive sales techniques to sell an opaque product to a young man with Down syndrome.

The report said 24 instances of bad corporate behaviour, including the widespread charging of fees for services not rendered, have been referred to the regulators for possible prosecution.

Last year, investors responded to the punishing Royal Commission hearings by pulling their money from brand-tarnished insurers, banks and fund managers.

Shareholders registered their distaste by voting against the executive remuneration plans of two of Australia's biggest financial institutions, National Australia Bank and Australia and New Zealand Banking Group.

The two big banks, alongside counterparts Commonwealth Bank of Australia and Westpac Banking Corporation, as well as wealth managers AMP and IOOF, were among the worst hit by the inquiry, although widespread impropriety was also found in other sectors, including insurance. REUTERS



A man trying out Sony's PlayStation 4 VR device during a presentation in Madrid last November. Sony's latest results underscore the struggle at big technology companies, which are seeing slowing demand for their products and services. PHOTO: REUTERS

Sony shares drop most since 2016 on weaker PlayStation 4 demand

TOKYO • Sony Corp shares fell the most in 2½ years yesterday after reporting slower growth in its PlayStation business and a cut in revenue forecasts for the year.

The stock slumped as much as 8.6 per cent – the most within a day since June 2016 – after operating income in games fell 14 per cent to 73 billion yen (\$900 million) for the holiday quarter.

The company – the latest big technology company to suffer from the slowing global economy – sold 8.1 million PS4 consoles, compared with nine million units a year ago. For total sales, Sony lowered its outlook to 8.5 trillion yen for the fiscal year through March, compared with the prior forecast for 8.7 trillion yen.

Macquarie Group analyst Damian Thong, in a report he wrote after cutting his rating to neutral, said: "We are moving to the sidelines until we can better assess the risks in the games segment. Strong profits from gaming software were offset by higher promotional and marketing costs aimed at driving PS4 volumes."

Goldman Sachs Group and Nomura Holdings also cut their price targets on Sony's stock.

Weaker demand for camera chips, mobile handsets and financial services were behind the revision although a tax adjustment will boost net income, the Tokyo-based company said in a statement last Friday.

Sony's results underscore the struggle at big tech companies,

which are seeing slowing demand for their products and services. Apple reported a decline in revenue for the first time in two years, while chipmakers Intel and Nvidia have warned of weaker sales as China's economy starts to sputter and uncertainty over Brexit looms.

Mr Andrew Jackson, head of Japanese equities at Soichow CSSD Capital Markets in Singapore, said: "It's definitely not as positive as the headline numbers would suggest. It feels slightly negative overall."

Operating profit in the last three months of last year was 377 billion yen, compared with analysts' projection for 365 billion yen. After adjusting for a one-time gain in the music business, the result was far lower at 260 billion yen. Quarterly sales fell 10 per cent to 2.4 trillion yen.

With fewer games in store for the already-ageing PlayStation 4, and Sony's own Xperia phone business still bleeding money, Sony chief executive Kenichiro Yoshida will have to prove that the company's turnaround can continue instead of peaking this year.

The mobile division continued to struggle, with an operating loss of 15.5 billion yen during the quarter, the fourth straight period. Mr Yoshida has so far rebuffed pressure to sell the unit, saying it is vital for pushing innovation including 5G-related research.

"The market is closely watching for a turnaround in the mobile com-

The PS4, headed for its sixth year, will likely surpass the 100 million unit sales milestone by the middle of this year, cementing its status as one of the best-selling consoles in history. But this year's software line-up is smaller than the record-setting one last year, which saw first-party blockbusters God Of War and Spider-Man, and third-party hits like Red Dead Redemption 2.

munications business, but it looks like things are worse year on year due to a decrease in smartphone unit sales," Mr Jackson said.

For the current fiscal year, operating profit will be 870 billion yen, compared with analysts' projections for 884 billion yen, according to estimates compiled by Bloomberg.

The PS4, headed for its sixth year, will likely surpass the 100 million unit sales milestone by the middle of this year, cementing its status as one of the best-selling consoles in history. But this year's software line-up is smaller than the record-setting one last year, which saw first-party blockbusters God Of War and Spider-Man, and third-party hits like Red Dead Redemption 2.

This year is mostly focused on a pair of zombie titles, the lesser-known Days Gone, scheduled for April, and a sequel to the award-winning The Last Of Us – likely released later this year. For the full fiscal year, Sony kept its forecast for the games division of 310 billion yen.

Sony's camera chips business is also seeing an impact from slowing global demand for smartphones. Operating profit in chips fell 23 per cent to 46.5 billion yen.

Jefferies analyst Atul Goyal wrote in a report last week: "We are cautious but not overly worried about CMOS despite iPhone weakness."

CMOS sensors are used in iPhone cameras and camera modules. BLOOMBERG

Rate hike pause will keep US growth on track: Fed official

WASHINGTON • Federal Reserve Bank of Minneapolis president Neel Kashkari said Fed chairman Jerome Powell is "coming around" to the view to wait until wages and inflation rise before raising interest rates again, and that the Fed's latest pause will help keep a "fundamentally healthy" economy on track.

"There are more people out there

who want to work, let's let the economy continue to strengthen and if we see signs then, wages pick up, inflation picks up, we can always tap the brakes," he said on Sunday at an event hosted by the Trinity Lutheran Church in Long Lake, Minnesota. "Let's just not tap the brakes prematurely."

The Minneapolis Fed distributed

a recording of the event, which took place on Sunday morning.

"I think we still have room to run in the United States economy," he said. Mr Kashkari is not a voter this year on the policy-setting Federal Open Market Committee.

The committee pivoted decisively last week to a prolonged pause on interest-rate increases, declaring it

would be "patient" as it determines future adjustments in borrowing costs that left open the possibility the next move could be a cut.

The policy U-turn, just six weeks after the Fed raised rates and signalled two hikes this year, reflected concern that slower global growth, tighter financial conditions and uncertainty over US-China trade talks

and Brexit posed risks to the central bank's positive US economic outlook.

January payroll data released by the Labour Department last Friday showed US employers added the most jobs in almost a year while wage gains remained measured.

Average hourly earnings advanced 0.1 per cent from the prior

month, while unemployment rose slightly to 4 per cent, pushed up by the government shutdown.

The Fed aims for maximum sustainable employment with stable prices, which it defines as 2 per cent, according to its preferred gauge. This rose 1.8 per cent in the 12 months through November.

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BullsAndBears

Lacklustre day for regional bourses

ThaiBev and Jardine Cycle & Carriage among gainers; mixed day for banks

Navin Sregantan

Normally a bumper jobs report from the United States would have kicked off regional markets but shares remained in the doldrums yesterday with most bourses either closed or open for half a day.

The pre-holiday sentiment left the Straits Times Index (STI) down 4.12 points or 0.1 per cent at 3,184.56 by the midday close.

Turnover came in at 1.36 billion shares worth \$484.55 million, with losers pipping gainers 169 to 148.

Penny activity wasn't subdued despite the half-session.

Pine Capital was the most active, closing up 100 per cent at 0.02 cent with 795.1 million shares traded.

The Catalyst-listed firm said on Sunday that its chief operating officer stepped down after assuming the position in November last year.

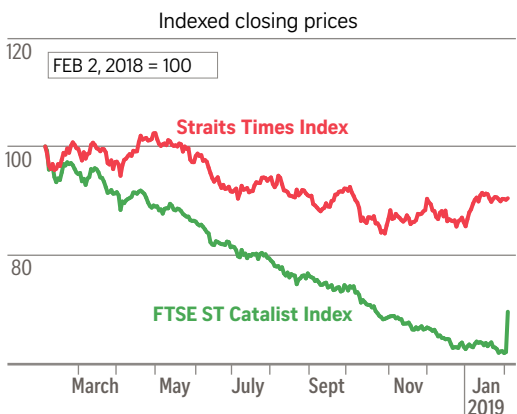
Marine firm Ezion Holdings was another active, losing 3.9 per cent to five cents on trade of 75.1 million.

Ezion said yesterday that it is expecting a fourth-quarter and full-year net loss amid uncertainty on whether its joint ventures can repay shareholder loans.

Food and beverage player ThaiBev was the most active STI stock on the day. It closed 1.3 per cent up at 77 cents on turnover of 20 million. Jardine Cycle & Carriage

Straits Times Index

Feb 4, 2019
3,184.56 ↓
-4.12 (-0.13%)
Current streak
2 days
Day high
3,197.96
Day low
3,182.17
52-week high
3,615.28 (May 2, 2018)
52-week low
2,966.45 (Oct 30, 2018)

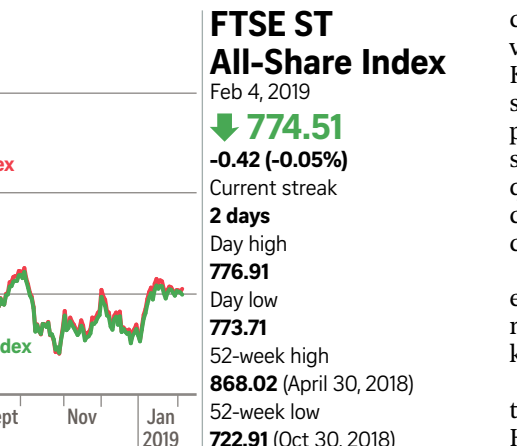


FTSE ST Catalyst Index

Feb 4, 2019
301.14 ↑
+0.90 (+0.30%)
Current streak
1 day
Day high
301.80
Day low
299.96
52-week high
479.39 (Feb 5, 2018)
52-week low
300.24 (Feb 1, 2019)

FTSE ST All-Share Index

Feb 4, 2019
774.51 ↓
-0.42 (-0.05%)
Current streak
2 days
Day high
776.91
Day low
773.71
52-week high
868.02 (April 30, 2018)
52-week low
722.91 (Oct 30, 2018)



was the index's big gainer, closing 1.1 per cent higher at \$37.94.

It was a mixed day for the banks. DBS gained 0.5 per cent to \$24.18, OCBC dropped 0.6 per cent to \$11.38 and United Overseas Bank fell 0.3 per cent to \$25.25.

CapitaLand-sponsored Reits fared well. CapitaLand Commercial Trust adding 1.1 per cent to \$1.89 and CapitaLand Mall Trust put on 1.3 per cent to \$2.39.

Seafood restaurant operator No Signboard Holdings resumed trad-

ing yesterday. It said on Sunday that chief executive Lim Yong Sim inadvertently instructed its broker, UOB Kay Hian, to buy back company shares during a trading restriction period. The counter's 24 per cent surge on Thursday prompted a query from the Singapore Exchange. The stock shed 14.7 per cent to 12.8 cents yesterday.

Elsewhere, Malaysia markets ended the day flat but Hong Kong markets closed higher. Both markets had half-sessions.

Tencent-backed Maoyan Entertainment fell 1.1 per cent on its Hong Kong debut yesterday, the latest in a number of weak listings by Chinese tech firms.

Japan and Australia had full trading sessions and closed higher. Mainland China and Taiwan markets are closed for a week, while Singapore, Hong Kong, South Korea and Malaysia will open on Thursday.

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Straits Times Index stocks

52-WEEK HIGH	52-WEEK LOW	COMPANY	CURRENCY LAST TRADED SALE	+OR-	'VOL '000	GROSS YIELD%	P/BV
278	245	Ascendas Reit	271	-2	6146	5.9	1.3
192	161	CapitaCom Trust	189	+2	9352	4.6	1
380	298	CapitaLand	332	-3	2083	3.6	0.7
242	195	CapitaMall Trust	239	+3	3824	4.8	1.2
1359	780	CityDev	908	+3	1945	2	0.8
251	196	ComfortDelGro	232	-7	2545	4.5	2
3128	2265	DBS Grp	2418	+11	1911	5.9	1.4
994	767	DairyFarm USD	US\$899	-6	240	2.3	-
133	85.5	Genting Sing	110	unch	9013	3.2	1.7
38.5	22.5	Golden Agri-Res	25	-0.5	3953	3.2	0.6
38.5	10.23	HPH Trust USD	US\$26	+0.5	1634	10.1	0.4
744	588	HongkongLand USD	US\$69	+16	1233	2.9	0.3
6974	1099	JMH USD	US\$6595	-74	136	2.4	0.7
4078	3155	JSH USD	US\$791	-42	100	0.8	0.4
3976	2766	Jardine C&C	3794	+43	83	3	1.8
858	567	Keppel Corp	601cd	-3	1689	5	1
1404	1036	OCBC Bank	1138	-7	1853	3.3	1.2
564	455	SATS	480	-2	795	3.8	3.3
814	672	SGX	755	-4	751	4	9.4
1184	914	SIA	966	+3	457	4.1	0.8
292	231	SPH	248	unch	594	5.2	1.1
375	319	ST Engineering	369	-5	1580	4.1	5.4
243	193	Sembcorp Ind	158	-1	2483	1.3	1.4
358	283	Singtel	302	unch	8582	6.8	1.7
92	57.5	ThaiBev	77cd	+1	19997	0.8	3.8
3037	2380	UOB	2525	-9	1097	4	12
898	591	UOL	660	-4	416	2.7	0.6
2965	1320	Venture Corp	1590	+2	448	3.8	2
335	297	Wilmar Intl	331	-3	1263	3	1
154	84	YZJ Shipbldg SGD	141	-1	5353	3.2	1

FTSE ST Large & Mid-Cap Index stocks

52-WEEK HIGH	52-WEEK LOW	COMPANY	CURRENCY LAST TRADED SALE	+OR-	'VOL '000	GROSS YIELD%	P/BV
278	245	Ascendas Reit	271	-2	6146	5.9	1.3
120	105	Ascott Reit	120cd	unch	5213	6	1
74.5	59	Bumitama Agri	69	+1	7	1.1	16
178	143	CDL HTrust	167cd	unch	1433	-	1.1
192	161	CapitaCom Trust	189	+2	9352	4.6	1
380	298	CapitaLand	332	-3	2083	3.6	0.7
242	195	CapitaMall Trust	239	+3	3824	4.8	1.2
1359	780	CityDev	908	+3	1945	2	0.8
251	196	ComfortDelGro	232	-7	2545	4.5	2
3128	2265	DBS Grp	2418	+11	1911	5.9	1.4
994	767	DairyFarm USD	US\$899	-6	240	2.3	-
133	85.5	Far East HTrust	66	+0.5	853	-	0.8
188	150	First Resources	168	3	92	4	2.2
231	211	Fraser's Cpt Tr	226	unch	1594	5.3	108.7
114	101	Fraser's L&I Tr	111	unch	1645	6.2	1.2
133	85.5	Genting Sing	110	unch	9013	3.2	1.7
38.5	22.5	Golden Agri-Res	25	-0.5	3953	3.2	0.6
224	167	GuocoLand Ltd	182	+1	50	3.8	0.6
38.5	23	HPH Trust USD	US\$26	+0.5	1634	10.1	0.4
744	588	HongkongLand USD	US\$69	+16	1233	2.9	0.3
6974	1099	JMH USD	US\$6595	-74	136	2.4	0.7
4078	3155	JSH USD	US\$791	-42	100	0.8	0.4
3976	2766	Jardine C&C	3794	+43	83	3	1.8
58	44.5	Keppel Infra Tr	50	-1	2102	7.4	1.8
858	567	Keppel Corp	601cd	-3	1689	5	1
124	108	Keppel Reit	119	+1	6018	4.7	0.9
273	107	Man Oriental USD	US\$94	+1	27	1.5	1.4
182	152	Mapletree Com Tr	181	+7	13851	5	12
206	184	Mapletree Ind Tr	199	-2	2727	5.9	1.3
140	118	Mapletree Log Tr	139	+2	10551	5.5	1.2
128	107	Mapletree NAC Tr	125xd	+2	6094	6	0.9
83	73	NetLink NBN Tr	78.5	+0.5	1066	-	1
1404	1036	OCBC Bank	1138	-7	1853	3.3	1.2
210	136	OUE	152	unch	79	2	0.3
88	64.5	OUE HTrust	73cd	-1	1064	-	1
250	157	Olam Intl	182	-2	190	4.1	0.9
59	28	Oxley	30.5	+0.5	603	4.9	0.9
291	256	ParkwayLife Reit	279xd	-6	477	4.6	1.5
121	98	Raffles Medical	111	unch	328	2	2.6
564	455	SATS	480	-2	795	3.8	3.3
814	672	SGX	755	-4	751	4	9.4
1184	914	SIA	966	+3	457	4.1	0.8
337	220	SIA Engineering	249	-1	135	5.2	1.9
292	231	SPH	248	unch	594	5.2	1.1
103	98	SPHREIT	102	unch	199	5.4	1.1
375	319	ST Engineering	369	-5	1580	4.1	5.4
243	193	Sembcorp Ind	158	-1	2483	1.3	1.4
278	149	Sembcorp Marine	158	-1	2483	1.3	1.4
58	39	Silverlake Axis	50	+1.5	5753	6	7.3
147	88.5	SingPost	95cd	-15	2641	3.7	1.3
358	283	Singtel	302	unch	8582	6.8	1.7
286	158	StarHub	182	unch	644	8.8	5.6
75.5	63.5	StarhillGbl Reit	72.5cd	+0.5	1181	6.3	0.8
201	163	Suntec Reit	189	-1	4524	5.3	0.9
92	57.5	ThaiBev	77cd	+1	19997	0.8	3.8
10.2	3.7	Thomson Medical	7.9	+0.1	6420	-	2.9
3037	2380	UOB	2525	-9	1097	4	12
898	591	UOL	660	-4	416	2.7	0.6
2965	1320	Venture Corp	1590	+2	448	3.8	2
335	297	Wilmar Intl	331	-3	1263	3	1
237	183	Wing Tai	202	-1	162	4	0.5
154	84	YZJ Shipbldg SGD	141	-1	5353	3.2	1
182	116	Yanlord Land	130	+2	561	5.2	0.5

FTSE ST Small-Cap Index stocks

52-WEEK HIGH	52-WEEK LOW	COMPANY	LAST SALE	+OR-	'VOL '000	GROSS YIELD %	P/BV
145	129	AIMSAMP Cap Reit	138cd	-1	71	7.5	1
69.5	48	Accordia Golf Tr	55	unch	186	7	0.6
87.5	74	Ascendas-hTrust	84.5	+1	180	-	0.9
119	99	Ascendas-iTrust	112	+1	1083	5.4	1.3
58	12.2	Asian Pay TV Tr	13	unch	640	50	0.2
64	48	Banyan Tree	58.5	-0.5	66	17	0.8
281	115	Best World	280	+10	2828	1.5	10
85.5	76	Boustead	79.5	unch	15	3.8	1.2
126	79.5	BreadTalk	86.5	-1	40	8.1	2.3
644	521	Bukit Sembawang	560	+4	12	3.2	1.1
87	65.5	Cache Log Trust	71xd	unch	1131	8.3	1.1
52.5	39.5	Centurion	40.5	unch	7	6.2	0.7
166	104	China Aviation	116	-1	150	3.9	1
46	29.5	China Everbright	36.5	-0.5	133	1.3	0.7
165	90.5	China Sunshine	128	-1	50	2.3	1.4
103	64	Chip Eng Seng	70	-0.5	700	5.7	0.6
53.5	31.5	Cosco	35.5	unch	1226	-	15
700	302	Delong	586	+2	7	-	0.6
27.5	17.5	Duty Free Intl	21cd	+0.5	775	8.8	1.3
78.5	67.5	EC World Reit	72.5	unch	95	8.3	0.8
59	47	ESR-REIT	52	+0.5	1925	7.4	1.1
140	92	First Reit	110	unch	479	7.8	1.1
150	134	Fraser's Com Tr	148	-1	422	6.5	0.9
80	66.5	Fraser's HTrust	73.5	-0.5	245	-	1
26.5	16.4	Geo Energy Res	19.6	-0.3	578	5.1	12
91	70.5	HRnetGroup	77	-0.5	122	3	2.4
67.5	52	Health Mgt Intl	54	-	-	0.6	5.2
279	73	Hi-P Intl	92	unch	571	27.2	1.4
283	252	Hong Leong Fin	265	unch	42	4.9	0.6
80.5	71	IREIT Global	75	unch	153	7.9	1
39	18.3	Indofood Agri	22	unch	100	-	0.3
84	43	Japfa	83.5	+1.5	415	0.6	1.6
76.5	49	KSH	51.5	unch	100	4.3	0.9
86	53	Kep-KBS Reit USD	66.5	+0.5	118	9.4	0.6
149	128	Keppel DC Reit	144	unch	630	5.1	1.3
189	132	Keppel T&T	187	-1	56	-	1.2
119	7	KrisEnergy	8.4	-0.1	9220	-	1
75.5	44.5	Lian Beng	49	unch	262	4.6	0.4
415	18	Lippo Malls Tr	24.5	unch	2013	14	0.9
53	30	MM2 Asia	32	+0.5	269	-	1.8
96	69.5	ManulifeReit USD	85	+0.5	77	6.5	0.8
120	95	Metro	100	+0.5	11	5	0.6
24	5	Noble	81	susp	-	-	-
66	45	OUE Com Reit	50.5cd	-1	1027	6.9	0.7
66.5	54	PEC	57.5	-	-	3.5	0.6
44	17	POSH	18.1	-0.9	106	-	0.5
64.5	44.5	Q&M Dental	50	-	-	3.2	3.6
113	55.5	QAF Ltd	69	-1	42	7.2	0.8
124	96	Riverstone	114	unch	8	2	3.7
54.5	22	SIIC Environment	32.5	-0.5	31	-	0.6
45	38	Sabana Reit	41.5	+0.5	453	7.7	0.7
119	90	Sheng Siong	112	unch	145	2.9	6.2
25.5	3.3	Sino Grandness	5.2	-0.7	2707	-	0.1
69	56	SoilbuildBizReit	60	-0.5	782	8.8	1
129	80.5	Tianjin ZX USD	85.5	-1.5	45	-	0.7
46.5	32.5	Tuan Sing	39.5cd	unch	576	2.3	0.4
136	54	UMS	63.5	+0.5	656	7.9	1.5
112	58.5	Valuetronics	70	unch	369	6.5	160.3
15.4	8.3	Ying Li Intl	11.9	unch	3277	-	0.3
49.5	24	Yoma Strategic	33.5	+0.5	2165	0.7	0.9
34	16.1	Yongnam	17.7	unch	436	-	0.3

Tencent-backed Maoyan makes weak HK debut

Its 1.1% drop seen as warning for Chinese tech firms eyeing IPOs

HONG KONG • Tencent-backed Maoyan Entertainment, China's biggest movie ticketing platform by sales, fell 1.1 per cent in its Hong Kong stock debut yesterday, the latest in a string of weak starts among Chinese tech firms listing in the financial hub.

Shares in Maoyan opened at HK\$14.82, barely higher than the initial public offering (IPO) price of HK\$14.80, which was already at the bottom end of an indicative range. They then fell to as low as HK\$14,

a warning sign for other Chinese tech companies that may be eyeing IPOs after achieving lofty valuations in private funding rounds. The stock closed at HK\$14.64.

However, thin trading volumes in a truncated trading session on the eve of the Chinese New Year could have contributed to Maoyan's lacklustre performance, said Mr Ke Yan, co-head of research at Aequis Research.

"While on the one hand, there's a lack of demand for the name given the limited upside in the online movie ticketing market in terms of market penetration; on the other hand, the upcoming Chinese holiday season could be another contributing factor for the thin volume

and the poor performance."

Loss-making Maoyan raised US\$250 million (S\$338 million) in a smaller-than-expected IPO, and could raise up to US\$287 million if a greenshoe, or over-allotment option, is exercised within the first month of trade. That is, however, a fraction of the amount it was looking to raise last year.

Its float is being watched as a test of investor sentiment for Hong Kong deals after a patchy performance by newly listed stocks last year amid US-China trade tensions.

Maoyan's IPO already implied a "down round" for Chinese tech giant Tencent Holdings, as it valued the ticketing platform at US\$2.16 billion – more than a quarter below

the valuation reached in its last funding round in 2017.

Investors are bracing themselves for further down rounds in China's tech sector, as weak stock markets worldwide and the country's economic slowdown weigh on once-buoyant private markets.

Many firms such as online food delivery-to-ticketing services provider Meituan Dianping and smartphone maker Xiaomi Corp, which raised billions of dollars in their listings, are trading below their IPO prices in Hong Kong.

Maoyan offers ticketing services through its Maoyan and Gewara apps in China – the world's second-largest movie market after the United States – and mainly distributes domestic films.

Its revenue almost doubled in the first nine months of last year to 3.1 billion yuan (S\$621 million), the prospectus showed. It has yet to turn in a net profit, but its loss narrowed to 144 million yuan over the same period from 152.1 million yuan a year earlier.

Bank of America Merrill Lynch and Morgan Stanley were joint sponsors for the Maoyan listing. REUTERS



Seafood restaurant operator No Signboard Holdings said the share purchase inadvertently resulted in two breaches – “dealing in the shares of the company during the blackout period and the purchase of shares at a price which exceeded the share price cap”. Its shares resumed trading yesterday and closed down 14.67 per cent to 12.8 cents. PHOTO: NO SIGNBOARD

Share buyback during blackout period an honest mistake: No Signboard

No Signboard Holdings chief executive Lim Yong Sim inadvertently instructed the company's broker to buy back shares of the seafood restaurant operator during a trading restriction period, the company said on Sunday in response to a Singapore Exchange (SGX) query.

The company said it had held its annual general meeting on the morning of Jan 31 to approve its share buyback mandate.

Mr Lim later instructed the company's broker, UOB Kay Hian, to queue to buy the shares at a price of up to 14 cents each. By 12.12pm on Jan 31, about 1.07 million shares were bought.

"This was an honest mistake on the part of Mr Lim as he did not notice that the share purchase at prices of up to 14 cents exceeded the 5 per cent cap above the average closing price of the last five days permitted under the share buyback mandate of 12.26 cents as of

Jan 31, 2019," the company said.

The stock surged nearly 24 per cent to 15 cents on Jan 31, prompting the SGX query and soon after, a trading halt from the restaurant operator.

As No Signboard had not held its audit committee and board meetings to approve its results for the

In the wake of the breaches, No Signboard's sponsor, RHT Capital, has directed No Signboard Holdings chief executive Lim Yong Sim to attend directors' training to re-familiarise himself with the listing rules and other regulatory requirements.

three months ended Dec 31, the share purchase was carried out during the blackout period, during which dealing in the company's securities was restricted.

"The share purchase has inadvertently resulted in two breaches, that is, dealing in the shares of the company during the blackout period and the purchase of shares at a price which exceeded the share price cap," the company said.

In the wake of the breaches, No Signboard's sponsor, RHT Capital, has directed Mr Lim to attend directors' training to re-familiarise himself with the listing rules and other regulatory requirements.

The firm has also been directed by the sponsor to immediately implement a comprehensive internal policy and procedure on the share buyback process.

Shares in No Signboard resumed trading yesterday and closed down 14.67 per cent to 12.8 cents.

Interbank currency rates

Currencies	Against US\$		Against US\$	
	Bid	Offer	Bid	Offer
Feb 4				
S\$ / US\$ to one unit of foreign currency:				
Australian dollar	0.9783	0.9787	0.7233	0.7235
Canadian dollar	1.0326	1.0330	0.7637	0.7634
Euro	1.5483	1.5490	1.1447	1.1451
NZ dollar	0.9322	0.9330	0.6892	0.6897
Sterling pound	1.7688	1.7695	1.3077	1.3081
US dollar	1.3526	1.3527	-	-
S\$ / US\$ to 100 units of foreign currency:				
Chinese renminbi	20.0474	20.0620	14.8214	14.8311
Danish kroner	20.7409	20.7431	15.3341	15.3346
Hong Kong dollar	1724	1724	12.7475	12.7476
Indian Rupee	189	189	1.3951	1.3952
Indonesian rupiah	0.0097	0.0097	0.0071	0.0072
Japanese yen	123.98	123.43	0.9122	0.9125
Korean won	0.1206	0.1206	0.0892	0.0892
Malaysian ringgit	3.303	3.307	24.4200	24.4498
New Taiwan dollar	4.3860	4.3906	3.2426	3.2458
Norwegian krone	16.0226	16.0250	11.8458	11.8467
Philippine peso	2.5833	2.5844	19.099	19.106
Saudi riyal	36.0588	36.0710	26.6588	26.6660
Swedish krona	14.9251	14.9311	11.0344	11.0380
Swiss franc	135.6942	135.7451	100.3210	100.3512
Thai Baht	4.3145	4.3176	3.1898	3.1918

Source: OCBC

Government securities

GOVERNMENT BONDS							Feb 4
Period	Issue code	Coupon rate(%)	Maturity	Close Bid	High	Day's Low	
2-Year	NY05100N	3.250%	01-Sep-20	101.94	0.00	0.00	
5-Year	NS19100A	2.000%	01-Feb-24	99.88	0.00	0.00	
10-Year	NX18100A	2.625%	01-May-28	103.68	103.85	103.70	
15-Year	NZ13100V	3.375%	01-Sep-33	111.55	111.70	111.70	
20-Year	NZ16100X	2.250%	01-Aug-36	96.6	0.00	0.00	
30-Year	NA16100H	2.750%	01-Mar-46	102.58	0.00	0.00	
Note: Based on latest issue.							
Source: Monetary Authority of Singapore							

Note: Based on latest issue

Source: Monetary Authority of Singapore

MSCI INDICES

Feb 1	In local curr		
	Index	%dy	%yr
World Preliminary	1548.5	0.3	7.4
EAFE Preliminary	1064.1	0.2	5.6
Europe Preliminary	1487.9	0.4	5.9
Australia	1177.2	0.0	3.2
Austria Preliminary	541.7	0.2	8.8
Belgium Preliminary	1004.4	0.4	9.8
Canada Preliminary	1985.5	0.0	8.4
Denmark Preliminary	7855.8	2.9	6.1
Finland Preliminary	705.7	0.2	8.1
France Preliminary	1816.3	0.5	6.0
Germany Preliminary	894.2	0.0	6.0
Greece Preliminary	45.9	0.5	5.7
India	1272.2	0.9	0.8
Indonesia	7506.6	0.6	6.1
Ireland Preliminary	188.9	0.6	5.4
Israel Preliminary	255.4	0.2	10.8
Italy Preliminary	665.2	-0.8	6.9
Japan	938.3	-0.2	5.0
Korea	663.9	0.0	9.9
Malaysia	584.2	0.0	0.4
Netherlands Preliminary	1568.5	0.6	7.6
New Zealand	136.1	0.3	2.6
Norway Preliminary	2893.8	0.4	3.9
Pakistan	416.0	0.6	16.5
Philippines	1383.2	1.8	9.6
Portugal Preliminary	84.5	0.1	4.7
Singapore	1661.7	0.0	4.2
Singapore Free	357.3	0.0	4.2

Source: MSCI

Company Briefs

Hyflux

Hyflux said yesterday that it has received an additional month from secured lender Maybank to divest the Tuaspring integrated water and power plant.

Maybank is giving Hyflux until Feb 28 to execute a binding agreement with a successful bidder or investor, an extension of the Oct 29, 2018 deadline earlier agreed upon.

Maybank can terminate the collaboration deal if the new deadline is breached.

Hong Fok Corp

Property developer Hong Fok Corp (HFC) yesterday said its 42.33 per cent unlisted associate company, Hong Fok Land International (HFL), plans to buy back all of its own shares at 55 Hong Kong cents each.

HFC has undertaken not to accept the share buyback offer for any of the HFL shares, which means its interest in HFL may increase to more than 50 per cent after the buyback, in which case HFC will become a holding company of HFL.

HFC will seek a whitewash waiver to avoid having to make a general offer for HFL if that happens.

HFL has 1.49 billion shares outstanding. Excluding HFC's 631.72 million HFL shares, that could put the total bill for the buyback at about HK\$473.38 million (S\$81.6 million) if every other HFL shareholder accepts the buyback.

HFL will finance the consideration payable for the share buyback offer using a loan facility.

The share buyback offer will be conditional upon approval by at least 75 per cent of HFL's independent shareholders for the buyback offer and the whitewash waiver. The buyback offer must not be rejected by more than 10 per cent of independent votes cast. HFL also has an approximately 20.4 per cent stake in HFC.

Ezion Holdings

Offshore and marine company Ezion Holdings is expecting a fourth-quarter and full-year 2018 net loss amid uncertainty over whether its joint ventures can repay shareholder loans.

The liftboat company is also expecting a "significant decrease" in net asset value due to a review in the fair value of its vessels.

As of end-September last year, Ezion's non-current assets were US\$1.7 billion (S\$2.3 billion), up from US\$1.6 billion a year earlier, due to certain joint venture bank loans taken up at the group level, which translated to an increase in shareholder loans to joint ventures.

The value of the impairments has not been determined, but Ezion expects a net loss for the quarter and year ended December as a result.

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With Deepest Sympathy &
Heartfelt Condolences to
Mr Sam Goi & Family
on the demise of their beloved son



Mr Ben Goi Kok Neng

From:

Dato Sri Prof. Dr. (H.C.) Tahir, MBA

Mr. Jonathan Tahir



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BEN GOI
on 3 February 2019

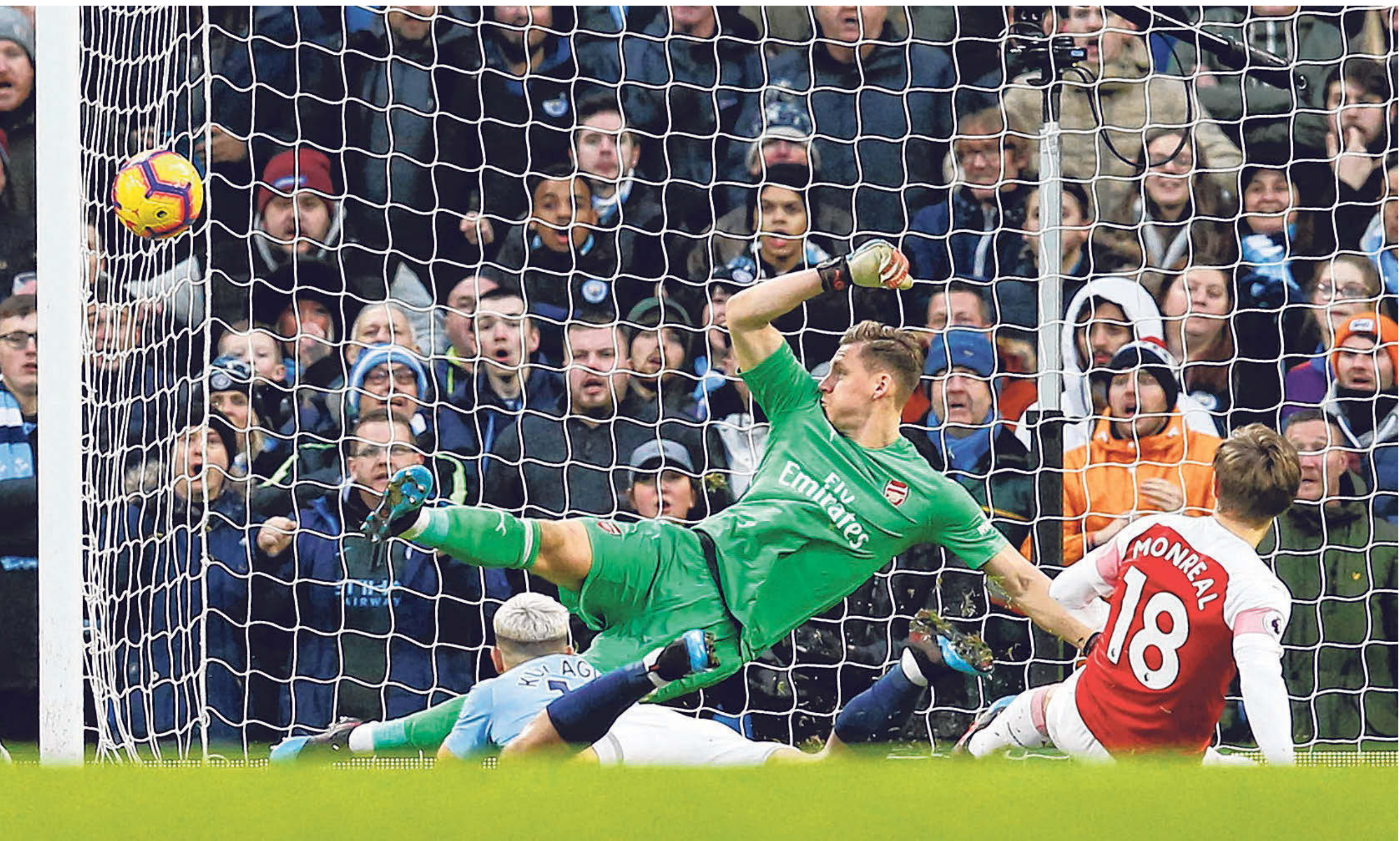
From:

The Management & Staff of
SkyVen Asset Management Pte Ltd
Peter Tan
Chew Ghim Bok

SPORT



TAN WEI HAN
INJURED SHUTTLE
RETURNS WITH
WINNING STREAK **C7**



Sergio Aguero scoring Manchester City's opener against Arsenal on Sunday after just 46 seconds. Pep Guardiola hailed the 3-1 home win as "we didn't recognise our team" in their shock midweek loss to Newcastle. PHOTOS: REUTERS, EPA-EFE

CITY LEARN A 'BIG LESSON'

Champions rebound with Aguero treble against Arsenal but Pep knows they must keep winning

LONDON • Pep Guardiola believes Manchester City are back to their best after Sergio Aguero's hat-trick secured a 3-1 win against Arsenal, with the manager admitting the champions did not "recognise" themselves after their shock Premier League loss at Newcastle last week.

His players bounced back thanks to Aguero's treble, the 14th of his City career. The tally moved him to 20 goals in 28 matches this season.

Guardiola hailed his team's response after Laurent Koscielny had pulled Arsenal level in the first half.

The Spaniard said: "What is important is being ourselves. That's what I want. We spoke in the last days. We didn't recognise our team in the last game.

"They know it. They felt the same

way. Today at least we came back."

Admitting his side had to concentrate only on their own results, with a testing trip to Everton to come tomorrow, and not be preoccupied with league front-runners Liverpool, he added: "Football is unpredictable... we are the only ones playing in midweek and we have to prepare to win three points.

"We don't have one week off, now we rest and prepare for Goodison Park and afterwards, Chelsea (on Sunday)..."

"We have to win a lot of games. A lot of things will happen from now until the end of the season, every game will be tough. What we have to do is try to show which way we are a nice (attractive) team.

"Our performance against Newcastle, we scored (early) and didn't try again and again - no fight to try to score the second goal.

"And then three or four days later, now we score after 46 seconds and try to get the second and try to get more goals.

"That's the big lesson we can

learn from these four or five days. When that happens, we are a team that can be proud of what we do."

He also lauded Aguero, who started successive league games for only the second time in the last two months, before insisting he always had a good relationship with the Argentina forward, despite speculation to the contrary.

The 48-year-old added: "He was born with that talent, he will die with that talent. I'm pleased. People said I wasn't friends with him (previously) but I try to be honest - always, I was delighted with him.

"Today, not because of the three goals, (but) because of how we fought for the team. He has his own quality.

"I judge the intention, not the result and the intention from Sergio has been perfect. A striker needs to score and he gave absolutely everything for the team."

But, the scoreline might have been closer after the 30-year-old, who is now only one hat-trick short of Alan Shearer's league record of

11, told reporters he handled the ball over the line for the third goal.

TV replays showed the ball had glanced off his elbow past Bernd Leno, with pundits split on whether it should have been disallowed.

Graeme Souness told Sky Sports the goal should have been ruled out, but Jamie Carragher felt "it would have been harsh to take it away from him".

Aguero's admission was, however, of little comfort to Unai Emery, whose Gunners dropped to sixth place, three points from a Champions League berth, leaving him unsure of a top-four finish.

The Gunners boss said: "After losing 3-1, it's not easy to say that, but we know we need big help.

"Our challenge now is the next week, continue to work and improve, and think how we can work and be better.

"Last week, we won and were with Chelsea in fourth position, but we lost today, (and) lost this position."

THE GUARDIAN, THE TIMES, LONDON



10th

EPL hat-trick by Sergio Aguero, one behind Alan Shearer

24sec

Sergio Aguero has scored both of the two quickest goals this Premier League season

- 24 seconds v Newcastle on Wednesday
- 46 seconds v Arsenal on Sunday

Wreckage of Sala's plane found near Channel Islands

LONDON • The wreckage of the plane that vanished with Cardiff's record buy, Emiliano Sala, on board was found within hours of a search starting in the sea off the Channel Islands.

A search boat hired privately by the striker's family - thanks partly to a crowdfunding appeal - located the downed plane on Sunday.

The crew passed the details of the location to the British Air Accidents Investigation Branch (AAIB), which used a remotely operated underwater vehicle (ROV) to check the spot.

There was no immediate official confirmation of what was found

but the shipwreck specialist leading the private investigation, David Mearns, said the missing plane had been discovered.

He added that it had been located by the privately hired vessel FPV Morven, and the AAIB's vessel, the Geo Ocean III, had visually identified the wreckage with an ROV.

Yesterday Mearns tweeted: "The families of Emiliano Sala and (pilot) David Ibbotson have been notified by police. The AAIB will be making a statement tomorrow. Tonight, our sole thoughts are with the families, and friends."

The AAIB corroborated his statement by retweeting his tweet and it

is understood it will be up to it to recover the plane.

The Piper Malibu PA-46 carrying the 28-year-old striker, who moved to the Premier League club for £15 million (\$26.5 million) on Jan 19, and Ibbotson, 59, disappeared over the English Channel on Jan 21 after leaving Nantes for Cardiff.

During the journey, the pilot had requested to descend, before losing contact with air traffic control.

An official search operation was called off on Jan 24 after Guernsey's harbour master, David Barker, said the chances of survival were "extremely remote".



Cardiff City's Bobby Reid celebrates scoring their first goal against Bournemouth last Saturday by displaying a shirt paying tribute to Emiliano Sala. PHOTO: REUTERS

The termination caused an outcry, with supporters of the family - and footballers, including Sala's compatriot Lionel Messi - calling for the search to be resumed.

An online fundraising campaign,

which was organised by Sala's agency, Sport Cover, paved the way for Mearns to lead the probe.

Fellow footballers, including Kylian Mbappe, donated to the fund, whose target of €300,000

(\$464,650) was reached within a day. When contacted by Argentina's Cronica TV, Sala's father, Horacio, was in disbelief over the news, saying it was "a bad dream".

AGENCE FRANCE-PRESSE, THE GUARDIAN

SCRAPPY WIN BUT OLE LAUDS TEAM

He salutes them for winning without playing well, then travels to see European rivals PSG

LONDON • Ole Gunnar Solskjaer wasted no time after his ninth victory in 10 games to fly to Lyon to watch Paris Saint-Germain's Ligue One match in preparation for Manchester United's last-16 first-leg tie with the French champions next Tuesday.

After overcoming another tricky hurdle last Sunday to emerge with a 1-0 win at Leicester, Premier League games against Liverpool, Arsenal and Manchester City loom, as well as the European challenge.

Although Solskjaer, who is on loan from Molde, had previously said he would return to them in May, he has since revealed that the Norwegian club's co-owners have wished him "good luck" and told him not to return.

The United caretaker manager, who took charge in December for the rest of the season, is certainly presenting a compelling case to be given the job full-time.

While United were not at their flowing best at the King Power Stadium, Solskjaer saluted his players for showing that they could win without playing well.

The Red Devils bounced back from a 2-2 draw with Burnley last Tuesday to leapfrog Arsenal into fifth place in the league.

He told reporters: "Our lads sacrificed everything they had. They know they can do better than this, but a clean sheet is always a foundation to build on."

"We could've done better higher up the pitch in terms of defending but we deserved the three points."

"We never strung passes together, we didn't control the game, but we're away with three points."

"Second half, I thought we were more concerned about the result than the performance and it showed."

Highlighting the growing influence and combination of Paul Pogba and Marcus Rashford – who has now netted six in his last eight league games compared to just three before Jose Mourinho was sacked last December – he said: "Marcus has played a lot of games and he got a dead leg earlier on, but he struggled through it."

"Good players make each other better and I can only explain goals

like this with quality."

Pundits have also noticed the 21-year-old Rashford's transformation – not only has his conversion rate in the league improved, but so has his volume of shots at goal from less than two per game to close to five under Solskjaer.

Former England striker Gary Lineker tweeted post-game: "Mature beyond his years. He's always struck me as totally confident and calm in his finishing."

While Alexis Sanchez played a part in Rashford's winner, he was otherwise pretty anonymous. But Solskjaer defended the Chile forward, who struggled to make inroads into the Foxes' defence.

The 45-year-old added: "He's played well today, but we just had to change the dynamics of the game a bit and (substitute) Anthony Martial has got fresh legs so I don't think there's any problem with his confidence, I thought he did well."

Still, even with an off-key Sanchez, Solskjaer and assistant Mike Phelan will be confident their attack can pose a serious threat to PSG's defence after they watched Thomas Tuchel's men fall to a 2-1 loss at Lyon, their first league loss of the term. AGENCE FRANCE-PRESSE, THE TIMES, LONDON

English Premier League talking points

- 1 SEAGULLS NEED TO UNCLIP WINGS
- Chris Hughton may not be looking over his shoulder just yet but a fifth consecutive game without a Premier League win has seen his Brighton side drop perilously close to the relegation dogfight.
- Cardiff's victory means the Seagulls are only five points clear of trouble and having picked up only six points from their last 10 league games, the manager will be eager to stop the slide.
- While they will have an immediate opportunity to do that on Saturday against Burnley, Hughton will be wary of their opponents given that the Clarets are also fighting for their lives.
- 2 TOFFEE'S SEASON TURNING SOUR
- Wolves gave Everton a beating and many reasons for envy on Saturday. Nuno Espirito Santo's men were organised, committed and dangerous – everything Marco Silva's side were not as they slipped to their sixth defeat in nine league games.
- In Conor Coady, they possessed a defensive strength and discipline that was in stark contrast to the performance of Michael Keane, while in Joao Moutinho, they had the purpose and invention the home midfield failed to deliver.
- But it was in attack where Everton were totally eclipsed by the quality of Raul Jimenez, whose work rate and contribution put the efforts of all of Silva's offensive players – Theo Walcott, Gylfi Sigurdsson, Richarlison and Cenk Tosun – to shame.
- 3 COTTAGERS AWAIT 'DILLY-DING, DILLY-DONG'
- While winning the league with Leicester meant Claudio Ranieri arrived at Craven Cottage with a reputation as a miracle worker, Fulham have seen little evidence of the Italian's supposed magical powers since appointing him in November.
- The side with the worst defensive record in the league are just as bad as they were under Slavisa Jokanovic.
- Second-last Fulham, the only team without an away win, looked like they were waiting to be relegated during their loss to Crystal Palace and successive home games against Manchester United, Manchester City, Chelsea and Liverpool are unlikely to lift the mood. THE GUARDIAN



Irving hails Celtics' 'great rhythm'

NEW YORK • Kyrie Irving scored 30 points and passed out 11 assists on Sunday as the Boston Celtics snapped Oklahoma City's seven-game National Basketball Association win streak with a 134-129 home triumph.

Marcus Morris added 19 points and Marcus Smart netted 18, as eight of nine players taking the court for Boston scored in double figures and the Celtics improved to 34-19, matching Philadelphia for third in the Eastern Conference.

"We have great continuity, great rhythm," Irving said. "Playing the best we can every single day."

The Thunder fell to 33-19, four games adrift of Western Conference leaders Denver and Golden State, despite a sixth consecutive triple-double from Russell West-

brook, who had 22 points, 16 assists and 12 rebounds.

Westbrook hit a three-pointer, made a steal and sank two free throws to pull the visitors within 121-119 in the final minutes.

Jerami Grant's three-pointer lifted the Thunder to trail 129-128. Boston's Jayson Tatum hit only one of two free throws but Irving forced a Westbrook turnover and Tatum added two more from the line to give the Celtics a 132-128 edge with 7.4 seconds to play.

Westbrook sank a free throw but missed the rim on his second attempt trying to set up a Thunder rebound and the Celtics took the ball, Smart hitting two final free throws to seal the victory.

"Down the stretch, it's winning time. Just like that," Irving said.

"That's a great team over there. It was a great challenge."

Paul George led the Thunder with 37 points and New Zealand's Steven Adams added 16 points and nine rebounds for Oklahoma City.

"We played with more aggressiveness on offence and we moved better on defence," said Celtics coach Brad Stevens, whose club improved to 20-0 at home when leading after three quarters.

The Celtics hit a season-best 59 per cent of their shots from the floor.

In Toronto, the Raptors ripped the Los Angeles Clippers 121-103 behind 18 points from Kawhi Leonard, plus 16 points and 12 rebounds from Congo-born Spaniard Serge Ibaka.

The Raptors improved to 38-16,

second in the East by 1½ games to Milwaukee, while the Clippers fell to 29-25, clinging to the last Western Conference play-off spot by one game over Sacramento.

Separately, the Los Angeles Lakers are continuing to pursue New Orleans Pelicans star Anthony Davis, who has demanded a trade and reportedly has a mutual interest in joining the LeBron James-led team.

According to ESPN, the Lakers are willing to part with a combination of picks and players, including Kyle Kuzma, Brandon Ingram, Josh Hart and Lonzo Ball, to acquire Davis and pair him up with James.

However, they will have to act fast, with the trade deadline approaching on Thursday.

AGENCE FRANCE-PRESSE, REUTERS

Boston Celtics guard Kyrie Irving and Oklahoma City Thunder forward Jerami Grant tussling for the ball during the second half of their NBA game at TD Garden on Sunday. Irving hit 30 points and had 11 assists in his team's 134-129 win. PHOTO: REUTERS

SportsWorld

Bertens beats Vekic for eighth WTA title

ST PETERSBURG • Second seed Kiki Bertens of the Netherlands beat Croatia's Donna Vekic 7-6 (7-2) 6-4 to win the St Petersburg Ladies Trophy on Sunday and claim her eighth WTA singles title.

Bertens, the world No. 8, was slow out of the blocks, and found herself trailing 5-2 in the first set before staging a remarkable turnaround.

REUTERS

Kane in US to speed up recovery

ATLANTA • Tottenham Hotspur striker Harry Kane plans to step up his recovery from an ankle injury next week but will not push too hard to return earlier than expected, the 25-year-old said.

He is likely to be out until March after damaging left ankle ligaments against Manchester United at Wembley on Jan 13, but has gone to the United States to recover.

The Englishman, who was in Atlanta to watch the Super Bowl, told Sky Sports "the ankle feels good", adding: "We'll get the footballs out next week and see how it reacts. It's going well so far but we've got to take our time with it and do it right."

REUTERS

Good showing from local skydivers

Singapore's skydivers ended last week's Wind Games in Empuriabrava, Spain with three medals in a field of more than 200 athletes.

The Republic's duo of Kyra Poh and Choo Yi Xuan partnered Spaniards Cesar Rico and Dani Gallego to win the gold in the relay race with a total time of 677.474 seconds, 7.482 sec ahead of NinjAspire – a French-American team.

The quartet combined again to finish second in the 4 Way Dynamic event, behind NinjAspire. Isabelle Koh, 11, was placed third in the junior freestyle category.

In-form Benzema helps Real close gap

MADRID • Karim Benzema scored his sixth goal in four games, as Real Madrid beat Alaves 3-0 on Sunday for a fourth successive LaLiga victory which took the European champions to within eight points of leaders Barcelona.

Real, the only top-three side in LaLiga to win over the weekend, moved to 42 points, two behind second-placed Atletico Madrid, who lost 1-0 at Real Betis, and eight adrift of Barca, who drew 2-2 at home to Valencia. REUTERS

LOTTERY

TOTO

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Please refer to singaporepools.com or our outlets.

SPORTS FIXTURES HIGHLIGHTS

Event	Home	Away	Timing	Venue
Wed, 6 Feb 2019				
French League	Marseille	Bordeaux	2.00am	LW*
English Cup	Newport	Middlesbrough	3.45am	LW*

LW* : Telecast available at Livewire(Marina Bay Sands) only
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OLD GOATS STAR IN SILENCE OF THE RAMS

Brady helps Patriots score 10pts in last 10min of low-scoring game to claim 6th Super Bowl

6

- Sony Michel's six rushing touchdowns is a new single-season play-off record.
- 3-3 – Fewest combined points over three quarters in a Super Bowl.

ATLANTA • The New England Patriots wrecked this Super Bowl, and that is meant as a compliment. They smashed and generally made an unsightly mess of the Los Angeles Rams, and they were not very pretty themselves, with the exception of one breathtaking play from Tom Brady to Rob Gronkowski. They won it, 13-3, last Sunday, in the same way they have done things all year, so strangely un-great and then suddenly great, and better than anyone gave them credit for. "I'll take that ugly win over a pretty loss any day," said Julian Edelman, the game's Most Valuable Player. They made fistfuls of history with their sixth Super Bowl title in a historically lousy offensive title game, the lowest-scoring one ever, a stymieing, grinding, bone-shattering game. Nothing ever flowed – until those

final 10 minutes of the fourth quarter, when 41-year-old Brady somehow prised two scoring drives worth 10 points out of the Patriots offence. "We were just chipping away," he said. A light and elegant Rams offence accustomed to having its way all season could not get a single thing it wanted against the Patriots. "We got completely outplayed," 24-year-old Rams quarterback Jared Goff said afterwards. Pressure played its part. To a certain extent, the Rams may have suffered from some stage fright. There was nothing that could prepare them for the sheer scale of the Super Bowl in the exaggerated immensity of the Mercedes-Benz Stadium, as futuristic and technologically marvellous as Starkiller Base. "It's a bigger game than you realise," warned the Rams' defensive coordinator, Wade Phillips, 71, who was coaching in his third Super Bowl, earlier in the week. It was too big for Rams head coach Sean McVay, at 33 the

youngest coach ever to reach this game, and at times for Goff, so baby-faced that he looked as if he was on spring break from prep school, and who seemed almost tremulous during the anthem, his hand-over-heart fluttering against his chest. "There's no other way to say it," McVay said. "I got out-coached tonight." He was still a high school quarterback when Brady and Bill Belichick won their first Super Bowl in the 2001 season. Goff was seven. They were up against a Patriots outfit with 36 Super Bowl veterans on their roster, some of whom had been together for 10 years or more, such as the 41-year-old Brady and 32-year-old Edelman. Belichick, 66, who has taken the Patriots to nine Super Bowls, and who began coaching in the 1970s, now has eight Super Bowl rings, after winning two with the New York Giants as an assistant. It was far from guaranteed, however, that time and experience

would actually work in the Patriots' favour. All year they had heard that they were ageing, slowing. When they started the season with a 1-2 record, and then lost an uncharacteristic five regular-season games, all they heard was that the dynasty was finally eroding. It all played straight into their hands. What better way to take the pressure off a trophy-surfeited team with chronically exaggerated expectations, who struggle to maintain their grind and motivation, than to put them in the underdogs role? The outside scepticism helped build a fierce bond among the Patriots and they developed an implacable belief in themselves.

"Too old, too slow, no skill!" they screamed at one another, repeating the criticisms of the experts. They went to work every day like they were hauling heavy loads. "It's a lot like climbing a mountain," Brady said before the game. "You got to kind of figure out your way to the top." They did not have as much youth or speed or dazzle as the Rams, no, but they had inner fortitude and the know-how of all their years of winning. "Maybe there are things you can't necessarily measure," Brady had suggested before the game. "But in the end, maybe they're more important than anything you can measure." WASHINGTON POST, NYTIMES



Above: New England Patriots' Sony Michel scoring their first touchdown. PHOTO: REUTERS

Left: Most Valuable Player Julian Edelman, (No. 11) and Patriots teammate Tom Brady celebrating at the end of Super Bowl LIII at the Mercedes-Benz Stadium on Sunday after they beat the Los Angeles Rams 13-3. At 41, Brady is the oldest quarterback to win the NFL's championship game. PHOTO: AGENCE FRANCE-PRESSE

Trump won't steer son towards American football

WASHINGTON • US President Donald Trump on Sunday said he would prefer his youngest son to play soccer rather than American football, describing gridiron as "dangerous". In an interview with CBS' Face The Nation, which aired as millions of Americans prepared to watch the National Football League's Su-

per Bowl, he said he was concerned about the safety aspects of the sport, which has been reeling from reports about brain injuries from concussions and repeated blows to the head. "It's a very good question," Mr Trump said when asked if he would allow Barron to play.

"If he wanted to? Yes. "Would I steer him that way? No." Barron, who turns 13 next month, plays soccer. "He's liking soccer. And a lot of people, including me, thought soccer would probably never make it in this country, but it really is moving forward rapidly," Mr Trump said.

Explaining his concerns about American football, he said: "I just don't like the reports that I see coming out having to do with football. I mean, it's a dangerous sport and I think it's really tough. "I thought the equipment would get better, and it has. The helmets have gotten far better but it hasn't

solved the problem. "The NFL is a great product, but I really think that as far as my son – well I've heard NFL players saying they wouldn't let their sons play football. So. It's not totally unique, but I – I would have a hard time with it." Former US president Barack Obama, the father of two daughters, said in a 2014 interview that he would not allow his son, if he had one, to play pro football. Mr Trump has feuded publicly

with the NFL over quarterback Colin Kaepernick and other players – most of them black – kneeling during the national anthem to protest against police brutality. The president has called for players who do not stand to be suspended. Asked about the controversy, he replied: "When you want to protest I think that's great. But I don't think you do it at the sake of our flag, at the sake of our national anthem." AGENCE FRANCE-PRESSE, REUTERS, BLOOMBERG

Fowler stumbles again but gets job done at last

LOS ANGELES • Rickie Fowler survived a nerve-racking back nine on Sunday to shoot a three-over 74, outduelling Branden Grace down the stretch to win the Phoenix Open for his fifth PGA Tour title. He closed with the highest score by a winner in tournament history but still managed to banish some demons at TPC Scottsdale. He had held the 54-hole lead twice before, including last year when he finished in a tie for 11th. "I had to dig deep and fight

through. It wasn't easy out there," said the American. "I am happy to get this one out of the way. "It has been a long time to get a win here. There have been plenty of good finishes, but too many second-place finishes." His 17-under 267 total was good enough for a two-shot win over Grace, who held the lead briefly but bogeyed the 17th. The South African eventually closed with a second straight 69. American Justin Thomas was

third after a 72 to finish three strokes back of his buddy Fowler. For a while, it appeared the tournament might be heading for a play-off for a fourth straight year as both Fowler and Grace found sand and water on the back nine. Playing in driving rain, Fowler had to survive a shocking triple-bogey on the par-four 11th. His third shot, a pitch from 35 yards, skidded through the green, and rolled down a slope into a lake. He took a penalty stroke before walking up to the green to assess how he would execute what would have been his fifth shot. However, while he was doing so, the ball rolled back into the water, and Fowler had to summon a rules official to ascertain his options. According to Rule 9-3, there was no penalty for the ball moving, but he had to play it from where it lay and he had no option but to take another penalty stroke. He eventually sank a 15-footer and walked off the green not even

sure what score he had recorded. He then followed his triple-bogey with another bogey on No. 12. But he regained his poise, and his reputation, with two birdies down the stretch, including one on the 17th where he had a nice approach shot and then a two-putt birdie. On the final hole, he hit his third shot to within three feet of the hole and then tapped in for his first victory since the 2017 Honda Classic. "It wasn't fun," said Fowler, who had a five-shot lead at the 11th tee before a mix of poor decision-making, poor execution and bad luck cost him. "Couple of bad swings, couple of bad breaks. You have to roll with the punches." "Number 11 could have turned this tournament the complete opposite way, and, finally we got it done," added Fowler, who has had seven career 54-hole leads and converted just two. "To finally get a win with my dad, grandma and grandpa around, happy about that." AGENCE FRANCE-PRESSE, REUTERS

Next 72 Hours

TODAY

FOOTBALL
AFC Champions League Prelim rd 1: Home United v Persija Jakarta (Jalan Besar, 7.30pm).
English FA Cup 4th rd, replay: Newport v Middlesbrough (Singtel TV Ch111, tomorrow, 3.40am).

TOMORROW

BASKETBALL
ABL Mono Vampire v Singapore Slingers (StarHub Ch202, 7.30pm).

CRICKET
1st T20 Int'l New Zealand v India (Singtel TV Ch123 & StarHub Ch236,

2.55pm).

FOOTBALL
English Premier League Everton v Man City (Singtel TV Ch102 & StarHub Ch227, Thursday, 3.45am).
English FA Cup 4th rd, replay: West Brom v Brighton (Singtel TV Ch111, Thursday, 4am).

THURSDAY

GOLF
European Tour Vic Open: Day 1 (StarHub Ch204, 8am & noon).

For latest updates, go to singtelv.com.sg & starhubgo.com or check the on-screen TV guide.

SPORT

SHUTTLE
TAN IN
WINNING
COMEBACK

After 4 wins in 5 outings following return from surgery, she and partner eye Olympics

Xener Gill

After being out for six months owing to a labrum tear, the last thing Singaporean shuttler Tan Wei Han expected when she stepped back onto the badminton court was to go on a winning run.

The odds were also stacked against her because she had a new mixed doubles partner, Danny Bawa Chrisnanta.

"I tried not to put any added pressure on myself," said Tan, when asked about her expectations on her return to action last December.

"I felt that being able to recover

and get back into the game was already an accomplishment on its own."

The 26-year-old injured her shoulder in December 2017 but held off surgery because she wanted to play in last April's Commonwealth Games. She finally underwent surgery a month later.

"I knew that I couldn't go on without fixing it, so I didn't have a choice," she said, though she acknowledged that surgery was not necessarily a cure-all.

But since her return, she has partnered Chrisnanta to victories in four of five tournaments.

Their latest conquest came last



Friday at the Singapore National Open Championships, where they beat Rizky Hidayat Ismail and Shinta Mulia Sari 21-19, 21-10 in 31 minutes.

Before that, it was last year's Turkey International and this year's Estonian International and the Swedish Open.

The latter two events each had US\$10,000 (\$S13,500) purses and were part of the Badminton World Federation's international series, a level below the world tour.

"The partnership is good so far though we've just started and Wei Han just got back from her injury so we have to start slow," said Danny.

Tan agrees, adding that they are aiming for bigger tournaments like the US\$25,000 Austrian Open and the US\$150,000 German Open.

"Aiming for bigger tournaments means more challenges, so we will have to continue to prepare ourselves," she said.

Tan and her previous partner,

Terry Hee, had aimed to break into the world's top 10, but he had to enlist for national service.

The most important goal for Tan and Chrisnanta now is Olympic qualification. The pair also hope to win a medal at the Philippines SEA Games.

"We are fighting to get into our best shape as a pair, Danny and Wei Han, and then the results will come," said Chrisnanta.

xenerg@sph.com.sg

Danny Bawa Chrisnanta and Tan Wei Han in action during the mixed doubles final of the Singapore National Open Championships at the Singapore Badminton Hall last Friday.

ST PHOTO:
KEVIN LIM

Obituaries

FOR BOOKINGS AND ENQUIRIES, call 1800-289-9988 or 6319-5192



Tony Yow Kum San
邱锦山

Age: 69

Passed away peacefully on 3 February 2019.
Dearly missed and fondly remembered by loved ones.

Wife: Sandy Chiew Cheng Hoi 周清花

Children:

Qiu Lihui 邱丽丹
Qiu Liming 邱丽名
Qiu Guanzhong 邱锦钟

Son-in-law:

Nicholas Yap 叶国强

Siblings:

Yow Sen Heng 邱倩馨
Yow Yun Woh 邱仁和
Yow Sin Hiong Diana 邱倩香
Yow Sin May Mabel 邱倩美
Yow Kum Pang 邱锦邦
Priscilla Khoo 邱碧颖
Ng Chun Way Kenny 黄俊伟
Ng Wei Zhen Jasmine 黄玮滢
Ng Wei Xiang Rosaline 黄玮霜
Yow Jing Kai Benjamin 邱敬凯

Spouses:

Late Khoo Kuang Lee 邱光利
Tan Beng Guek Winnie 陈明月
Cheok Khai Shing 卓启胜
Ng Kok Keong Steven 黄国强
An Siew Tiang Brenda 洪秀珍

Nephews & Nieces:

Neo Shan Shan Cheryl 梁姗姗
Neo Shan Shan Cheryl 梁姗姗

And all relatives and friends.

Wake at Singapore Casket Level 5, Citrine Hall,
131 Lavender Street, Singapore 338737.

Cortege leaves on Thursday 7 February 2019 at 3.30pm
for Mandai Crematorium Hall 3 for cremation at 4.30pm.



In our fondest memories, we will always love you.



Rashpal Singh
s/o Manjit Singh Bal
Village: Balseran

Age: 58

Departed on 3 February 2019.
Leaving his loving family:

Wife: Gurdveer Kaur

Parents: Manjit Singh & Ragbir Kaur

Parents-in-law: Sarjit Singh & Harpal Kaur

Daughters & Sons-in-law:

Rajvinder Kaur & Melvinder Singh
Dilmeet Kaur & Gurminder Singh
Sukhjaveenth Kaur
Rashleender Kaur

Grandson: Armaan Singh

Siblings:

Sushil Kaur, Jaspal Singh and Kirenjit Kaur

Tuesday 5 February 2019

Sri Sukhmani Sahib Path will be held at
14 Nim Green, Singapore 807633 at 1.00pm.
Cortege will leave residence at 3.15pm for
Mandai Crematorium Hall 4 for cremation at 4.15pm.
Buses will leave Residence, Silat Road Gurdwara
and Central Sikh Temple at 3.15pm.

Thursday 7 February 2019 to Saturday 9 February 2019

Sri Akhand Path will commence
at the residence at 9.00am.

Paath da Bhog and Antam Ardas will be held at
Sri Guru Singh Sabha from 4.00pm to 6.00pm.

**2nd Anniversary
In Loving Memory Of**



K. Viswambharan
Departed 6 Feb 2017

*It has been two years since you left but it still
feels like you are right here with us.
We will forever cherish the lessons
and values you taught us.*

You will always have a special place in our hearts.

Dearly missed by loved ones

Wife: G.Lalitha (deceased)

Sons

Rajan (deceased)
Jayaprakash
Prasad
Daughters
Sathi Devi
Nirmala

Daughters-in-law

Veneta
Arbaiyah
Leela
Sons-in-law
N.Sasindran (deceased)
K.R.Sunil

Grandchildren, Grandsons-in-law,
Granddaughters-in-law and Great-grandchildren

Caregiver: Akhila

Prayers will be held at

Sri Manmatha Karuneshwarar Temple
226 Kallang Rd, S(339096)
Wednesday 6/2/2019 at 7.30 pm

Please treat this as a personal invitation



**Ms Thangamah
d/o Ponniah**

Age: 80

Was called home to the Lord
on 4 February 2019.

Dearly missed and fondly
remembered by loved ones.

Late Father: Mr Ponniah

Late Mother:

Mrs Veeramal Ponniah

Sisters:

Late Mrs Ponnammal Sarangapani
Mrs Muthammal Dass

Ms Anani Ammal
Late Mrs Pakiam Gandhi

Brothers:

Mr Paul Raju
Mr Soosai Tangamani

Mr Subramanian Kumaravel

**Nephews, nieces and friends from
Singapore, India and Malaysia.**

Wake at Block 148 Mei Ling Street,
#03-105, Singapore 140148.

Night service on Tuesday

5 February 2019 at 7.30pm.

Cortege leaves on Wednesday

6 February 2019 at 1.00pm for

Funeral Service at Pasir Panjang

Tamil Methodist Church

at 1.30pm, thereafter to

Mandai Crematorium Hall 3

for cremation at 3.45pm.

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In memory of
a loved one



Marimuthu s/o Govindasamy
(St Georges Mari) (Ex PUB / SOC)

Age: 72

Passed away peacefully on 4 February 2019.
Dearly missed and fondly remembered by loved ones.

Wife: M. Krishnamah

Brother:

Appoi

Sisters:

Krishnamah
Anjalai (Aachi)

Daughters:

Parameswari
Jagatheswari

Son-in-law:

Ganapathiganthan

Son:

Saravanan

Daughter-in-law:

Punitha

**Grandchildren, great-grandchildren,
all relatives and friends.**

Appa is resting at Block 430 Choa Chu Kang Avenue 4,
#02-607, Singapore 680430. Tel: 8670 7168 / 9742 9101

Cortege leaves on Tuesday 5 February 2019 at 5.30pm
for Mandai Crematorium Hall 1 for cremation at 6.30pm.



**SHAHABUDDIN
BIN MOHAMED
KHAIRUDIN**

Age: 100 years old

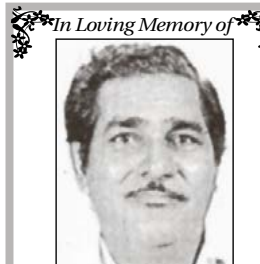
(Former PWD,
Snr. Technical Officer)

Passed away peacefully
on 28 January 2019.

Dearly missed and fondly
remembered by family.

Amiruddin: 9685 8016

Salim: 9456 4154



**GURMUKH SINGH
s/o JAGAT SINGH**

Departed: 6/2/1988

*We cannot forget you
Your memory grows
Sweeter after 30 years.*

Sadly missed by

Wife: Joginder,

Sons: Balbir & T.J.,

Daughters, Sons-in-law,

Daughter-in-law and

Grandchildren

Sixteenth Anniversary



SOH SIU LIAN
Departed on 6 February 2003

'Without you, there would be no us'
Fond memories fill our thoughts everyday.

*Always remembered by your sons,
Philip and Andy,
family and friends*

9th Anniversary



SHASHI PAWA
Left us on 06/02/2010

We don't just grieve the moment our loved one passes.

We grieve the past, the future and now.

Our loved ones are more than a moment in time.

We always miss and remember you.

life

D **ART FOR CHINESE NEW YEAR**
Some works nearly 400 years old
D2



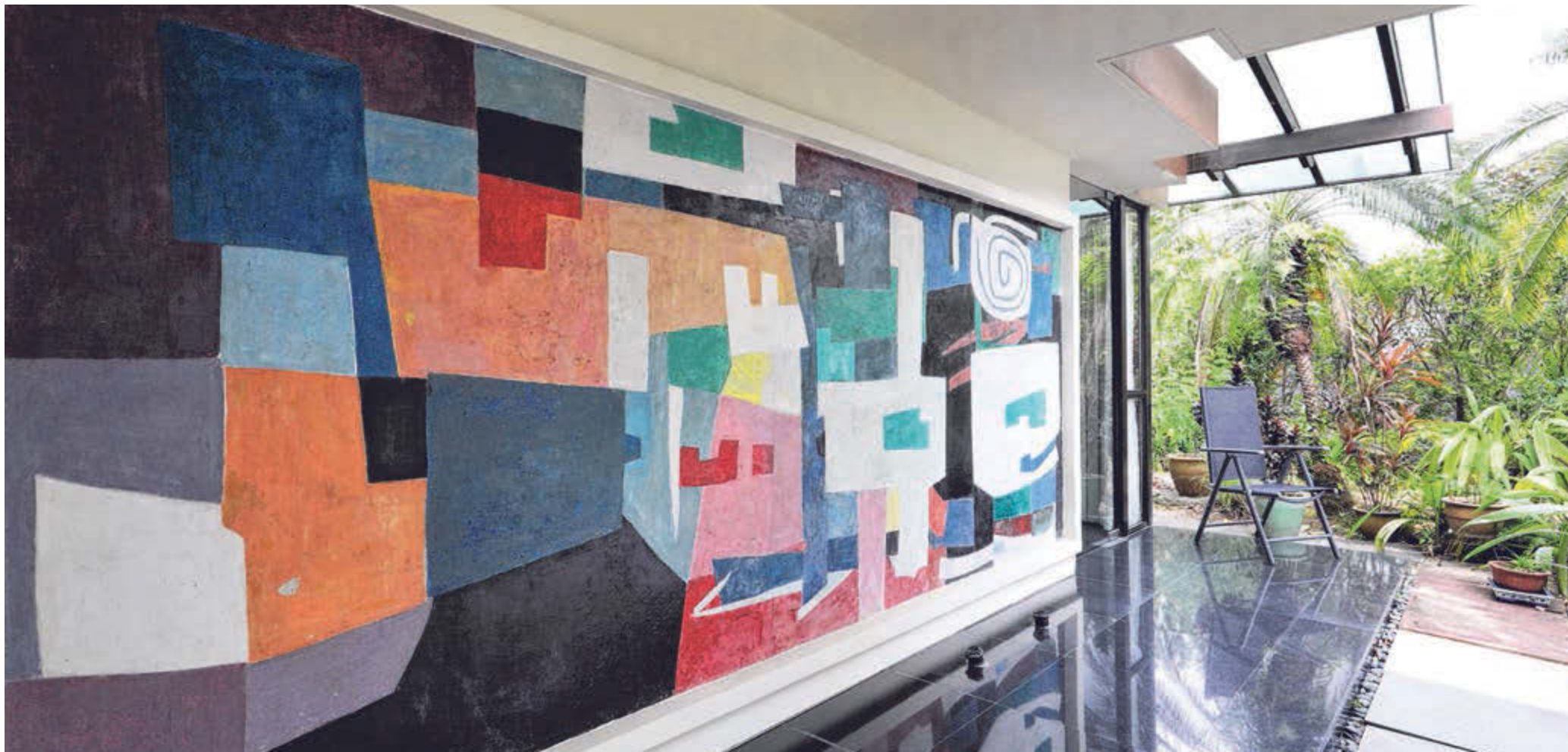
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Benjamin Low, 27

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Homecoming



Murals by pioneer artist Chen Wen Hsi, along with his famous Chinese ink paintings of gibbons, will be on display at his former home in Bukit Timah.

Toh Wen Li gets a sneak peek of the upcoming exhibition. **D3**

The late Chen Wen Hsi painted this abstract mural, titled Studio, in the late 1950s.

DESIGN: SALLY LAM PHOTOS: GAVIN FOO, NATIONAL ART MUSEUM OF CHINA

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Folk art to celebrate Chinese New Year

Two exhibitions here showcase mostly woodblock prints from the collection of the National Art Museum of China

Akshita Nanda
Arts Correspondent

About 170 works of folk art from China, created from the 17th century to the present day to celebrate Chinese New Year, are on display at the private Parkview Museum in North Bridge Road and the China Cultural Centre in Queen Street.

The exhibitions in both locations run until April 12 and mostly showcase woodblock prints, often with hand-painted elements, from the collection of the National Art Museum of China (Namoc). The joint showcase is organised by Namoc, in collaboration with Parkview Museum and the China Cultural Centre.

The China Cultural Centre opened in Singapore in November 2015 and is one of about 20 built by the Chinese government around the world to promote its culture and bolster its soft power abroad. There have been two prior exhibitions at the centre showcasing contemporary artwork from Namoc,

but this is the first joint showcase with another museum here.

The Parkview Museum hosts the bulk of the art on loan from the Chinese museum: 127 works from the town of Yangliuqing in Tianjin, which is historically known for its exquisite woodblock prints. The showcase is titled Breezing Willow, in homage to the lush willows Yangliuqing was famous for.

The works on display range from pieces nearly 400 years old to one dating to 1912 and showing an aeroplane.

Namoc director Wu Weishan curated both exhibitions. He says in a media statement that the fashion of creating art for Chinese New Year started in the mid- to late-Ming dynasty era (the 16th century) and was developed and refined during the Qing-dynasty era which followed.

New Year artwork from Yangliuqing was especially “renowned for their exquisite engravings, delicate colourings, rich diversity of styles as well as huge influence” on artists from other regions. Works from that town were popular gifts for the emperor.

The high-quality woodblock prints look deceptively like paintings, though only certain elements were actually hand-painted. These include facial tones or delicate embroidery on clothing.

The process of creating the woodblocks is demonstrated in a multimedia installation at Parkview Museum.

The prints and paintings have been grouped according to theme, showing how early Chinese New Year artwork showed door gods or gate guardians, which were put up in front of the home as protection against evil. Other themes became popular in later decades, such as scenes from legends, operas or novels such as the 18th-century classic, Dream Of The Red Chamber.

The exhibition at the China Cultural Centre, titled Auspicious Blessings For The Chinese New Year, showcases 40 works from historic times to the present day. These range from Qing-dynasty embroidery hangings or woodblock prints created in different parts of China to paper cut-outs by contemporary Chinese artist Gao Fenglian. Popular subjects include household gods and scenes of family life, showing a desire for prosperity and children.

Curator Wu says: “Though varied in cultural patterns and artistic styles, these works share one theme in common, that is people’s longing for a better life, both in the past and at present.”

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Highlights at China Cultural Centre



DOOR GODS: QIN QIONG AND JING DE

These hand-painted woodblock prints from Yangliuqing in Tianjin were made during the late Qing dynasty (exact date unknown). They represent two famed Tang dynasty-era generals now cele-



brated as gate guardians Qin Qiong and Jing De.

Folk art celebrating Chinese New Year started with paintings or woodblock prints of these legendary figures. The art was placed in front of the home to protect it against evil.

BOOK IT / AUSPICIOUS BLESSINGS FOR THE CHINESE NEW YEAR

WHERE: Level 2, China Cultural Centre, 217 Queen Street

WHEN: Until April 12, 11am to 5.30pm (Tuesdays to Saturdays), closed on Mondays and public holidays

ADMISSION: Free

INFO: www.cccsingapore.org

Highlights at Parkview Museum



THE SPRING LANTERN RIDDLES OF NUAN XIANG WU (above)

From the 18th century, during the reign of Emperor Qianlong of the Qing dynasty, Chinese New Year art from Yangliuqing became so famous that shops specialising in woodblock prints would offer first editions of their best work to the royal family as a tribute.

Such prints were often rich in visual detail, with painted additions. This hand-painted woodblock print illustrates a scene from the classic novel Dream Of The Red Chamber and dates to the late 18th or early 19th century.



MENCIUS' MOTHER BREAKS THE WEAVE

When Emperor Qianlong died in 1799, his son and successor Jiaqing decreed a period of state mourning. It was forbidden to play drums and gongs and also to use red and purple in Chinese New Year prints and paintings. Works from Yangliuqing relied heavily on shades of blue. This hand-painted woodblock print shows a scene from the life of legendary philosopher Mencius. His mother cut the cloth she was weaving to symbolise how wasteful it would be if her son did not further his studies.

PHOTOS:
KELVIN CHNG,
NATIONAL ART
MUSEUM OF CHINA,
CHINA CULTURAL
CENTRE



FISH IN A JAR

This fish-in-a-jar motif is unique to Chinese New Year art from Yangliuqing. The words for “lotus flower” and “swimming fish” when combined are homophones for the phrase “years of abundance”. This painting dates to the reign of Emperor Guangxu, whose short-lived reign in the 19th century was curtailed by the Empress Dowager Cixi.



AIRSHIP

This woodblock print dates to 1912, the year the Republic of China was established. The relatively new technology of the aeroplane became a popular subject in Chinese New Year art from 1911, when a French aviator brought two aeroplanes to China for a demonstration.

BOOK IT / BREEZING WILLOW

WHERE: Parkview Museum, Level 3 Parkview Square, 600 North Bridge Road

WHEN: Until April 12, noon to 7pm (Mondays to Saturdays), closed today and tomorrow

ADMISSION: Free

INFO: www.parkviewmuseum.com



The exhibition Homecoming: Chen Wen Hsi Exhibition @ Kingsmead is curated by Mr Johnny Quek (left), an avid collector of the artist's works, and will take place in Chen's old home (above), which artist Tay Joo Mee (seated) bought in 1998 and has recently sold. With them is Mr David Chen, the late painter's youngest son. ST PHOTO: GAVIN FOO

Enter Chen Wen Hsi's house of art

About 20 of the pioneer artist's paintings will be exhibited in the Bukit Timah residence where he lived till his death



Toh Wen Li

Stroll down Kingsmead Road in Bukit Timah and you might spot a colourful abstract mural on an external wall of a bungalow – one of the last surviving signs that a certain pioneer artist once lived there.

The property belonged to the late Singaporean painter Chen Wen Hsi, who called it home from the late 1950s till his death in 1991.

He is perhaps best known for his paintings of gibbons, two of which are printed on the back of Singapore's \$50 note.

For the past two decades, the two-storey house has been the home of artist Tay Joo Mee and her family. But the \$15-million property has since been sold again and, before it changes hands, its doors will open to the public for a showcase of Chen's works.

Homecoming: Chen Wen Hsi Exhibition @ Kingsmead runs at the artist's former residence from April 12 to May 3, with about 20 figurative, abstract and calligraphy paintings in different parts of the house. It is organised by Artcommune Gallery, curated by Mr Johnny Quek, director of Merlin Gallery, and partially funded by the National Arts Council.

Most of the paintings will come from Mr Quek's private collection.

"The public will have the opportunity to be at the artist's house and, at the same time, see his outstanding artworks... The murals are an important landmark for the house," says Mr Quek, 72.

After Tay and her husband bought the property in 1998, the old house was demolished and rebuilt, although some structures, such as the mural's wall – which has another abstract mural on its other side – were retained.

The first mural, titled Studio, was painted in the late 1950s, according to second-generation artist Wong Keen, one of Chen's former students. Then a teenager, Wong assisted the older artist while he worked on it.

He feels that the mural has Cubist aspects and some affinities with the work of Spanish painter Joan Miro.

"I believe it also contains Nanyang-style characters and landscapes," adds Wong, who turns 77 this year and is based in the United



VIEW IT / HOMECOMING:
CHEN WEN HSI EXHIBITION
@ KINGSMEAD

WHERE: 5 Kingsmead Road

WHEN: April 12 to May 3,
noon to 7.30pm daily

ADMISSION: Free

INFO: E-mail valerie@
artcommune.com.sg

The abstract mural, titled Studio, on an external wall of Chen Wen Hsi's old bungalow (left) in the late 1950s. It was painted in the late 1950s and survived renovations to the property. It was subsequently restored.

PHOTO: COURTESY OF TAY JOO MEE

States. "The shapes are deformed... You could say this is a boat, or that is a Malay scene... But that's not really important. It's beautiful. Everything seems to work, shape-wise, colour-wise. No space is wasted. It's a full, complete picture."

Chen was born in 1906 in Baigong village, Guangdong. He attended Shanghai's Xinhua Academy of Fine Arts, where he met Chen ChongSwee and Liu Kang.

The three artists, together with artists Cheong Soo Pieng and Georgette Chen, pioneered the Nanyang style in Singapore.

The Nanyang style refers to art in South-east Asia that marries Chinese and Western styles and techniques of painting.

In 1949, Chen Wen Hsi settled in Singapore and taught at The Chinese High School, now known as Hwa Chong Institution, as well as the Nanyang Academy of Fine Arts.

The prolific painter's works feature Chinese as well as Western influences. They can fetch six-figure sums and are often the subject of forgery.

The upcoming exhibition will include abstract as well as figurative ink paintings of animals such as gibbons, fish and cranes.

Then there is an oil painting of crabs – from a surprise haul in 1999, when artist Tay and her husband Greg Seow chanced upon a trove of about 30 paintings by Chen in the attic of the old house.

The architect they had hired to redesign the building was inspecting the roof when he stumbled upon the attic.

It was not long before they found the stacks of dusty paintings inside. The couple handed the works over to Chen's second son, Chen Siew Min, who let them keep the crab painting.

Tay says: "I was shocked... I was so busy trying to dust them. Every painting was fantastic."

During the exhibition, a 3D model of the old house, sponsored by DP Architects, will help visitors imagine what it used to look like.

Artefacts from Chen's life, such as his art books, will also be on display.

Chen's third son David Chen, 74, says he lived at the Kingsmead Road house with his parents, two elder brothers and a Nafa student who helped with housework.

His late father gave group painting lessons in the living room and worked in a studio on the right of the entrance.

One of Chen's former students, the late surgeon Earl Lu, recalled in a 1976 essay on the master artist: "His large sitting room is simply furnished, but its walls glitter with oils and watercolours painted by himself or by others."

"His private workshop is a small, well-lit study next to the sitting room. Here, he stores his huge collection of original paintings, antique porcelain, art books and periodicals from all over the world."

Chen famously maintained a "miniature zoo" in his garden, with gibbons, ducks, chickens, peacocks, squirrels and fish. He observed the animals closely and they informed his work.

"Every day, he stood there (in front of the cage) and looked at their behaviour," recalls the younger Mr Chen, founder of Studio Industrial Design.

He says his father had a strong work ethic. "If he didn't like a painting, he would put it in a steel dustbin and burn it (in the garden). My mother would try to salvage them, but he refused to let her keep them."

Mr Quek, who started collecting Chen's works in the 1970s and has amassed hundreds of them, says none of the paintings at the exhibition will be for sale.

Artist Wong would like to see a museum dedicated to Chen's works one day.

He says: "His Chinese painting eventually merges with Western painting. At the end, you can see some of his colourful crane paintings, which are quite abstract."

"If he had lived a longer life, I don't know what he would have done – there might be more exciting, less controlled types of paintings."

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for KING & COUNTRY

DEBUT PERFORMANCE FROM GRAMMY WINNING ARTIST
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Raffles revealed in his collection

New exhibition at the Asian Civilisations Museum delves into the Briton's role in South-east Asia through more than 150 items he collected

Ong Sor Fern
Senior Culture Correspondent

He came. He saw. He collected.

And 158 items from Sir Thomas Stamford Bingley Raffles' collection can now be seen at the Asian Civilisations Museum (ACM).

Raffles In Southeast Asia: Revisiting The Scholar And Statesman, the first major exhibition of this bicentennial year, is on till April 28.

The items collected by Raffles are on loan from the British Museum, which owns about 2,000 objects associated with the founder of modern Singapore. But the show will also include other objects, some drawn from Singapore's National Collection, as well as artefacts borrowed from other museums, such as Museum Nasional Indonesia, and private collectors.

The exhibition took two years to put together. It is co-curated by the British Museum's curator (South-east Asia) Alexandra Green, and ACM's senior curator (South-east Asia) Stephen Murphy and assistant curator Naomi Wang.

The idea of displaying Raffles' collected objects alongside indigenous items, says Ms Wang, 29, is to spark a dialogue about Raffles' role in South-east Asia, and to promote more awareness about the context of such colonial collections.

"The show gives us a great opportunity to look at the things Raffles collected, to understand his psyche and his motivations," Ms Wang says.

Hence the exhibition opens by juxtaposing a portrait of Raffles, which presents him as the gentleman-scholar, with a sculpture of the deity Mamaki, which is depicted in the painting in a more romanticised form.

Ms Wang says: "We want to look at how information gets filtered and the biases. A lot of shows that deal with colonial collections often leave out the context of how they were collected and that is very important."

Raffles bought many items in his collection, but like other colonial collections, there are things which were looted as war booty or collected in ways that took the objects out of their indigenous context.

The show addresses some of these biases by setting his collection against other objects borrowed from regional institutions. These include textiles from the House Of Danar Hadi, a renowned museum in Indonesia with a collection of royal batiks.

These cloths are a counterpoint to Raffles' own textile pieces.

Raffles sent Indonesian batik back to England in the hopes that Indonesia could become a market for cheap English textiles in the same way that India did. He even negotiated successfully with Indonesian royalty to relax some sumptuary laws which restricted certain patterns to royalty.

But English batiks proved so unpopular with the local population that inventory piled up in warehouses.

Ms Wang notes that some items in Raffles' collection were made with certain economic imperatives in mind, such as the models of farming implements which served to emphasise the richness of Java's lands, and therefore its value to the East India Company.

"He was trying to make a case that Java was worth keeping as a British territory."

She also points out that while Raffles was "absolutely enamoured of, and focused on, the Hindu-Buddhist past of Java", he also ignored the Islamic reality of Java in his time. "There was a belief that Java's Muslim rulers were despotic and corrupt, and didn't appreciate their glorious past."

His collection is thus skewed towards Hindu-Buddhist relics rather than Islamic artefacts. The ACM show seeks to redress the various biases in his account of Java.

Ms Wang notes: "Collections are about power: How one is able to collect depends on one's circumstance and ability."

But she is also quick to add: "The point is not to tear Raffles down, but to be fair, you have to take in the context."

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• www.facebook.com/OngSorFern

The show gives us a great opportunity to look at the things Raffles collected, to understand his psyche and his motivations.

»

ASSISTANT CURATOR NAOMI WANG on the exhibition, Raffles In Southeast Asia: Revisiting The Scholar And Statesman



12 highlights

There are 240 objects on display at the Asian Civilisations Museum's new show. The Straits Times picks some of the must-see items.

1

Portrait of Sir Thomas Stamford Bingley Raffles (above), copy of the original by George Francis Joseph in the National Portrait Gallery, London, 1817; and the female deity Mamaki (right), Candi Jago, West Java, late 1200s

The first two things you see at the exhibition are the famous portrait of Raffles and a statue that was depicted in the background of the painting.

These items set up the dialogue to come: The conscious portrayal of Raffles as a gentleman-scholar and the indigenous reality as presented by the statue.

Note the painting's romanticised depiction of the Mamaki, a Hindu-Buddhist deity associated with water.



2

Babad bedhad ing Ngayogyakarta (Chronicle Of The Fall Of Yogyakarta), by Pangeran Arya Panular, Yogyakarta, 1812

In the pre-dawn hours of June 20, 1812, British troops attacked the Royal Palace of Yogyakarta under Raffles' leadership. The palace was looted. The Javanese court was humiliated and traumatised by the attack and subsequent indignities.

This is a famous first-person account by a member of the court and it is opened to the page which recounts how John Crawford, later the Resident in Singapore, forced Sultan Hamengkubuwana II and the men in the court to give up their keris. The author likens having to surrender the weapon to being castrated.



3

Figurine of bullock and cart, Sumatra, mid-1900s

Among Raffles' collection are models which range from gamelan instruments to houses.

This figure of a bullock and cart belongs to a category with farming implements and in a broader narrative that Raffles was trying to establish about the richness of the land in Java.

As an official of an economic entity, his task was to reap economic benefits for his company, and part of his argument for expanding British influence in Indonesia was the economic potential of the archipelago.

MILESTONES IN SIR STAMFORD RAFFLES' LIFE

1781: Born on July 6 on a ship off Port Morant, Jamaica, to an impoverished merchant captain and his wife.

1795: Finds employment as a clerk in the British East India Company at age 14 as family was too poor to afford further schooling for him.

1804: Marries Olivia Mariamne Devenish, a widow 10 years his senior. She dies in West Java in 1814 and is buried in Batavia.

1805: Rises in the ranks of the company to become assistant to Philip Dundas, governor of Penang.

1811: Becomes Lieutenant-Governor of Java, a post he would hold till 1814.

1817: Publishes The History Of Java, the first English-language history of the island. Knighted by the Prince Regent for his achievements. Marries his second wife Sophia Hull and takes up post of Lieutenant-Governor of Bencoolen, Indonesia.

1819: Lands in Singapore, signs treaty with Sultan Hussein Shah which gives the British the right to set up a trading post on the island. Leaves Major William Farquhar in charge when he returns to Bencoolen.

1824: Embarks on Fame for a return voyage to England with his family, but the ship catches fire off the coast of Bencoolen. Papers, drawings and his collections from his second Indonesian stint are lost.

1826: Dies a day before his 45th birthday of apoplexy. Survived by second wife Sophia and daughter Ella. Ella dies in 1840, aged 19, while Sophia lives to the age of 72. Raffles' collection is donated to the British Museum in 1859 by his nephew, Reverend William Charles Raffles Flint.



4

Fanciful view of Candi Sewu being cleared by Javans under direction from Europeans (right), Java, 1807; and pair of drawings showing a temple state with a commentary (above) by Captain Baker, Java, 1807

These images fall in line with European ideas that great monuments are signifiers of great civilisations.

Raffles was very much taken by the idea that Java was home to great civilisations in the past and, as with all colonial powers, sought to justify British influence as a way to bring civilisation back to these fallen worlds. While the view of Candi Sewu can be seen as art, the underlying message is that of educated Europeans, dressed in suits, bringing civilisation back to half-naked savages. Similarly, the pair of drawings presents a mythical return to order.



5

Pair of Vishnu ear ornaments, Java, 11th to 14th century

Raffles' collection did not include gold objects, perhaps because of the expense of such valuable ornaments.

Gold was much prized in Indonesian courts and intricate jewellery such as this pair of beautifully worked earrings also proved that Hindu motifs were still prevalent in the visual and aesthetic languages of Java, even if Islam had become the dominant religion.

The conch shell is one of the attributes of the Hindu god Vishnu, and the detail is thanks to wax casting and gold working techniques which prove the skill of Indonesian jewellers.



6

Map Of Java, London, 1817 or 1830

Look closely at this engraving and you can see Raffles has literally put himself on the map. There is a dotted line traversing the island which shows the footsteps of "T.S. Raffles Lieu-Gov. & c. & c. in the year 1815".



7

Claes Fredrik Hornstedt Examining Natural History Specimens, Stockholm, 1788

This watercolour painting shows Swedish naturalist Claes Fredrik Hornstedt with his slave Ali.

He spent a year in Java between 1783 and 1784, and painted this recollection when he was a curator at Stockholm's Museum of Kungliga Vetenskaps Akademien.

The painting is a vivid illustration of the power dynamic. Hornstedt had renamed his slave Ali, in place of his "long Javanese name".

And while European naturalists have been credited with "discovering" new species, it is evident here that native guides with extensive knowledge were vital to these "discoveries".



8

Elephant-headed figure, Riau-Lingga Archipelago, before 1913

Intriguingly, this bronze figurine dates from Raffles' time.

It was produced in the 1800s in Indonesia, probably for European consumption as a tourist trinket rather than a religious artefact.

Look more closely and you can see that the proportions of this image of the Hindu god Ganesha are slightly wonky. The head is too big and the limbs look



amateurish.

While Raffles' history emphasised the glories of Java's Hindu past, the reality by the 19th century was that the island was predominantly Muslim although Hindu customs and motifs were still commonplace.



9

Mahakala, illustrated in The History Of Java (above left); Mahakala (above right), Candi Singasari, about 1300

Compare the drawing with the actual statue of this guardian deity common to Hinduism, Buddhism and Sikhism, and you immediately notice differences.

The drawing is a more tempered depiction, with headress and draped clothing that recall Indian and Mughal dress. It was likely made with the British readers in mind, since they would already be familiar with India.

The statue is a more intimidating proposition, with its thick, stern lips, staring eyes and thick mane that recalls a lion's head. In Hinduism, Mahakala as Kali's consort is a scary creature with four arms and who is associated with death and destruction.

10

Comic character Sabda Palon, Central Java, 1700s

Raffles' collection includes very rare examples of three-dimensional puppets such as this one.

No example of these wayang golek remains in Java today, and the fact that Raffles himself did not mention them in his History Of Java suggests these puppets were not common in the early 1800s.



The displayed puppets once had rods extending from their bases, but the rods have been cut off.

11

Cogan (ritual fan), Riau-Lingga Archipelago, before 1913

This fan is part of the Riau-Lingga sultanate's royal regalia, without which a new sultan cannot be crowned.

A famous succession crisis centred on control of the royal regalia in 1812 when Sultan Mahmud Shah III died.

His eldest son, Tengku Hussein, was away in Pahang. The queen, Engku Puteri Hamidah, refused to hand over the royal regalia so that Hussein's younger brother Abdul Rahman, favoured by the court, could be crowned.

The British and the Dutch jumped into this royal struggle, each championing one candidate.

Sultan Hussein was the royal candidate recognised by the British in their treaties to set up the Singapore colony.



12

Malay shirt and trousers, Riau-Lingga Archipelago, 1860-1870

This innocuously titled item is actually the wedding outfit of the last ruler of Riau-Lingga, Sultan Abdul Rahman Muazzam Shah II. He fled to Singapore in self-exile after the Dutch drove him out of his seat.

He died in poverty in Singapore, after trying unsuccessfully to regain his holdings, and this wedding outfit was donated to the National Collection by his sister in 1938.

BOOK IT / RAFFLES IN SOUTHEAST ASIA: REVISITING THE SCHOLAR AND STATESMAN

WHERE: Asian Civilisations Museum (ACM), 1 Empress Place

WHEN: Till April 28, 10am to 7pm (Saturdays to Thursdays), 10am to 9pm (Fridays)

ADMISSION: \$12 for Singaporeans and permanent residents, \$20 for tourists

VIEW IT / ACM SYMPOSIUM: REVISITING RAFFLES

WHERE: Ngee Ann Auditorium, ACM

WHEN: Keynote lecture by Dr Farish A. Noor, March 8, 6:30pm; panel sessions, March 9, 9am to 6:30pm

ADMISSION: Free, but register with e-mail address and name at NHB_ACM_Conference@nhb.gov.sg by March 1

PHOTOS: BRITISH LIBRARY BOARD, COURTESY OF ASIAN CIVILISATIONS MUSEUM, COURTESY OF NATIONAL MUSEUM OF SINGAPORE, DR FARISH A. NOOR, MUSEUM NASIONAL INDONESIA, STICHTING NATIONAAL MUSEUM VAN WERELDCULTUREN, THE HISTORY OF JAVA, THE TRUSTEES OF THE BRITISH MUSEUM

BUSINESS AS USUAL

At your service

While many companies close for the Chinese New Year, some restaurants and entertainment providers are ramping up their operations to cope with the festive demand



For your feasting pleasure

TungLok Group

Usher in the Year of the Pig with TungLok's Prosperity Yu Sheng (\$48+/\$78+), a medley of fresh vegetables, mushroom, yam, sweet potato shreds and a sauce that is lower in sugar. Other must-haves are its pen cai offerings (from \$288+), brimming with abalone and other festive delicacies, simmered in TungLok's exquisite abalone sauce.

The newest restaurant to join the fold is Duckland, which specialises in the juicy birds from the famed Silver Hill Farm in Ireland. And TungLok Group — which sells 5,000 Irish ducks across its outlets every month — even has a barn to its name. Menu highlights include the signature Roast Irish Duck (\$28++ half, \$50++ whole), Crisp-fried Duck Wings (\$8++), Duck Confit & Waffle (\$20+), and all manner of aromatic duck fat-fried dishes from fish and chips, to fried rice and vegetables. Duckland is closed today but will remain open for the rest of the CNY period.

Visit www.tunglok.com for more information, including CNY opening hours and menus.



Above: TungLok offers festive takeaways as well. Right: Ban Heng's new star item — a whole sucking pig.

Ban Heng Group of Restaurants

This year, Ban Heng is offering a new star item on its nine-course CNY dinner set menu — a whole sucking pig. This menu is priced at \$698+ and serves 10 people. You can also get your dim sum fix at the 50-year-old restaurant chain during the festive period (its buffet is priced from \$30.80++) or enjoy the signature Buddha Jumps over the Wall eight-course set menu (priced from \$538++ for 10 people). Here's a deal for dine-in customers: Purchase a CNY Lo Hei dish at 50 per cent off. Choose from the Special Yusheng Lo Hei with Abalone & Crispy Fish Skin Topped with Honey Mustard Sauce (usual price: \$69.99) or the Salmon Lo Hei (usual price: \$48.99). Visit www.banheng.com.sg for more information, including the full list of outlets and menus.

*Terms and conditions apply for all.

BY MEREDITH WOO

While most of us are enjoying our Chinese New Year (CNY) reunion dinner, getting ready to go visiting or even anticipating a long-awaited family holiday, it is business as usual for many in the service, and food and beverage (F&B) line.

For example, Ban Heng Group of Restaurants, which is closed today only, still keeps its telephone lines open to receive enquiries and take reservations.

Ban Heng's general manager Sammi Lin says the popular Chinese buffet chain saw over 6,000 diners yesterday at its four restaurants — HarbourFront Centre, Boon Keng, Aranda Country Club and Orchard.

To cope with the festive demand, Ms Lin says Ban Heng hires one-and-a-half times as much manpower for the kitchen and three times as many service crew. Some service staff also help out with answering phone calls — "usually each outlet has four telephone operators, but during this peak period we double the number," she says.

Working hours are also longer, with staff doing 12-hour shifts instead of eight. But staff members are motivated by the sales turnover and of course the CNY extra bonus, says Ms Lin.

And to fulfil its 1,000 CNY pen cai (treasure bowl) and set menu home delivery orders, Ban Heng's Boon Keng outlet was closed during lunch yesterday.

Similarly, TungLok Group, which operates 24 outlets over several brands, does not completely cease operations during the festive period. All of its outlets stayed open for CNY eve yesterday, with five restaurants still seating guests today.

For the reunion dinner on CNY eve, all of its restaurants were fully booked.

Notes Mr Andrew Tjioe, President and Chief Executive Officer of RiverLok Group: "Throughout the 15 days of Chinese New Year, bookings are usually for



company celebrations and late reunion gatherings." He adds: "The restaurants cope with the CNY crowd by employing extra manpower, and offering designated set menus and an a la carte menu that feature dishes that are not only pleasing to the eye and palate, but are also manageable for the kitchen staff and chefs to cope with during the busy period."

For TungLok, this year is probably twice as busy, for it just welcomed a new brand to its stable on Jan 18 — Irish duck specialist Duckland at United Square on Thomson Road, the brainchild of Mr Tjioe.

And this new opening, just before CNY, is a serendipitous one.

"The concept was in the pipeline for some time and when the space became available, we saw this as an opportunity to open Duckland, showcasing numerous dishes made using Irish Duck," says Mr Tjioe.

It's a win-win situation for diners too, as they now have another F&B option in the area to choose from, in addition to TungLok's other outlets LingZhi Vegetarian, Lao Beijing and TungLok Teahouse, which are in the vicinity as well (Velocity@Novena Square and Square 2), he adds.

Top left: The festivities go on at TungLok Group's restaurants. Above: Have your CNY meal at Ban Heng. PHOTOS: BAN HENG GROUP OF RESTAURANTS, TUNGLOK GROUP

Mr Tjioe on a visit to Silver Hill Farm.



Duck Confit & Waffle from Duckland.



Out and about

Resorts World Sentosa

Returning to Resorts World Sentosa's Festive Walk (right) is Fortune Street (till Feb 17), which features 16 fortune-tellers sharing their expertise using ba zi, face reading and more. Admission to Fortune Street is \$38 (\$28 for RWS Invites members). Visit www.rwsentosa.com/Fortune-Street to make online appointments with the fortune-tellers and for details.

Fans of A-Mei can still book tickets to the Queen of Mandopop's showcase (Feb 15 and 16) at Resorts World Convention Centre, Resorts World Ballroom. The performance also stars the Queen of Blues Ai Yi Liang and 18-year-old starlet Anna, who is A-Mei's niece. Visit www.sistic.com.sg to purchase tickets.

ArtScience Museum

Your little ones will love the interactive Future World: Where Art Meets Science at ArtScience Museum (right) — an exhibition of cutting-edge digital installations created in collaboration with teamLab. Ticketholders also enjoy free entry to Digital Light Canvas. Visit www.marinabaysands.com/lunar-new-year.html for details.

Gardens by the Bay

Catch the Dahlia Dreams floral display at the Flower Dome, Gardens by the Bay (till Feb 24). In addition to the colourful blooms, a majestic 35m-long archway of red lanterns and an exquisite display of



PHOTOS: RESORTS WORLD SENTOSA, MARINA BAY SANDS SINGAPORE


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Yu Sheng Set Menu \$398** (10 pax)
Good Luck & Prosperity Salmon Yu Sheng, Braised Shark's Fin Soup with Shredded Dried Scallops & Crab-meat, Steamed Live Sea Grouper Fish in Hong Kong Style, Braised Chicken with Chinese Herbs, Stewed "Tien-Tai" Cabbage Topped with Taro-Chay, Boiled Live Prawns, Fried "Te-Fu" Noodles, Chilled Longans & Pineapples

Superior Shark's Fin Set \$498** (10 pax)
Good Luck & Prosperity Salmon Yu Sheng, Braised Superior Shark's Fin in Superior Broth, Steamed Live Snail with Superior Soya Sauce in Hong Kong Style, Wok-fried Spare Ribs with BBQ Sauce, Braised Chicken with Chinese Herbs, Stewed "Tien-Tai" Cabbage Topped with Taro-Chay, Boiled Live Prawns, Fried "Te-Fu" Noodles, Sweetened Yam Paste in Teochew Style

Double-Boiled Superior Shark's Fin Set \$598 | Whole Suckling Pig Set \$698****
Buddha Jump Over The Wall Set \$838** (10 pax)

Lucky New Year Set Menu F \$32.80 | Prosperity Shark's Fin Set Menu G \$39.80****
Superior Shark's Fin Set Menu H \$49.80** (4-7 pax, min 4 pax)

Ban Heng @ Harbourfront Centre

1 Maritime Square #04-01 Harbourfront Centre Singapore 099253 How to get there by MRT: Alight at Harbourfront MRT Station (NE1), take exit B, follow the Cruise Centre sign, take lift at Lobby C (next to Cruise Departure/Arrival Hall) to Level 4
Tel: 6278 0288 6278 1354 Email: pavilion@banheng.com.sg

Set Menu A \$418** (10 pax)
Ban Heng Salmon Yusheng, Braised Shark's Fin with Crab Meat, Steamed Live Sea Bass with Superior Soya in Hong Kong Style, Roasted Chicken served with Prawn Crackers, Braised Teochew Cabbage with Black Moss, Poached Live Prawns, Braised "Te-Fu" Noodles with Chives, Refreshing Lemon Grass Jelly with Kiwi Seeds & Longan

Set Menu B \$698** (10 pax)
Ban Heng Yusheng with Salmon & Crispy Fish Skin, Crispy Whole Suckling Pig, Braised Shark's Fin with Dried Scallops and Crab Meat, Steamed Live Snail with Superior Soya Sauce in Hong Kong Style, Scalloped Fresh Scallops & Vegetables with XO Sauce in Golden Nest, Wok-fried King Prawns with Cereal & Butter, Braised 10-Headed Abalone & Black Moss with Spinach, Fried Rice with Chinese Sausage in Lotus Leaf, Sweetened Yam Paste with Pumpkin

Menu B \$488 | Menu C \$588** | Menu E \$938**** (10 pax)
Menu F \$39.80 | Menu G \$49.80** | Menu H \$59.80**** (4-7 pax, min 4 pax)

Ban Heng @ Pasir Ris

60 Pasir Ris Drive 3 Aranda Country Club Singapore 519497 Next to NTUC Downtown East
Tel: 6585 1770 6585 1093 Email: acc@banheng.com.sg

Set Menu A \$338** (10 pax)
Ban Heng Salmon Yusheng, Braised Shark's Fin with Crab Meat, Steamed Live Sea Bass with Superior Soya in Hong Kong Style, Roasted Chicken served with Prawn Crackers, Braised Teochew Cabbage with Black Moss, Poached Live Prawns, Braised "Te-Fu" Noodles with Chives, Refreshing Lemon Grass Jelly with Kiwi Seeds & Longan

Set Menu B \$368** (10 pax)
Ban Heng Salmon Yusheng, Braised Shark's Fin with Dried Scallops and Crab-meat, Steamed Sea Grouper with Superior Soya Sauce in Hong Kong Style, Braised Whole Chicken with Chinese Herbs, Braised 10-Headed Abalone with Black Moss & Spinach, Braised Pork Belly served with Deep-fried Ban, Poached Live Prawns with Chives, Refreshing Lemon Grass Jelly with Kiwi Seeds & Longan

Menu C \$498 | Menu D \$668** | Menu E \$838**** (10 pax)
Menu F \$29.80 | Menu G \$39.80** | Menu H \$49.80** | Menu J \$59.80**** (3-7 pax, min 3 pax)

Ban Heng @ Orchard Central

181 Orchard Rd #1-01/02 Orchard Central Singapore 238896 (3 minutes walk from Somerset MRT Station)
Tel: 6238 1516 6238 7816 Email: oc@banheng.com.sg

Set Menu A \$398** (10 pax)
Ban Heng Salmon Lo Hei, Braised Shark's Fin with Crab Meat, Deep-fried Snail with Superior Soya Sauce, Steamed Whole Chicken with Chinese Herbs, Braised Teochew Cabbage with Four Treasures & Black Moss, Poached Live Prawns, Braised "Te-Fu" Noodles with Chives, Chilled Lemon Grass Jelly with Kiwi Fruit Seeds

Set Menu B \$468** (10 pax)
Ban Heng Salmon Lo Hei, Braised Shark's Fin Soup with Crab Meat & Dried Scallops, Steamed Live Sea Grouper with Superior Soya Sauce in Hong Kong Style, Roasted Chicken served with Prawn Crackers, Braised 10-Headed Abalone with Black Moss & Spinach, Braised Pork Belly served with Deep-fried Ban, Poached Live Prawns with Chinese Wine & Herbs, Braised "Te-Fu" Noodles with Chives, Chilled Lemon Grass Jelly with Kiwi Fruit Seeds

Menu C \$568 | Menu D \$668** | Menu E \$938**** (10 pax)
Menu F \$32.80 | Menu G \$39.80** | Menu H \$49.80**** (3-7 pax, min 3 pax)

Salmon Yu Sheng Take-away @ \$28 nett (Available at all restaurants)

Ban Heng @ Harbourfront Dim Sum Buffet available during Lunar New Year.
Please visit www.banheng.com.sg for buffet menu.



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· Hotel Michael, Lobby Level, 6884 7888
· Resorts World Sentosa

TUNG LOK SEAFOOD 同樂海鮮
· The Arena Country Club, 6262 6996
· Upper Jurong
· Orchard Central, #11-05 6834 4888

TUNG LOK TEAHOUSE 同樂小聚
· Square 2, #01-73 6893 1123

TUNG LOK SIGNATURES 同樂經典
· Orchard Rendezvous Hotel, 6834 0660
· #02-18
· Clarke Quay Central, #02-88 6336 6022
· Changi City Point, #01-26/27 6636 0606

TUNG LOK XIHE PEKING DUCK 同樂義和
· The Grandstand, #01-23 6466 3363
· Orchard Central, #07-08/09 6736 0006

LAO BEIJING 老北京食堂
· Velocity@Novena Square, 6358 4466
· #02-11/12

LOKKEE 樂記
· Plaza Singapura, #03-01 6884 4566

LINGZHI VEGETARIAN RESTAURANT 靈芝素食館
· Liat Towers, #05-01 6734 3788
· Velocity@Novena Square, 6538 2992
· #03-09/10

SHIN YEH RESTAURANT 欣葉台菜
· Liang Court Shopping Centre, 6338 7337
· #02-19

DANCING CRAB
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· VivoCity, #03-10 6222 7377

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From journalist to novelist

Fiona Barton spent more than 30 years at news outlets and draws on this experience for her psychological thrillers



Olivia Ho

When British writer Fiona Barton was a journalist, she had a habit of tearing out newspaper articles that caught her eye and stuffing them in her handbag, in the hope of following up on them later.

One of these scraps, about the unearthing of a newborn baby's skeleton at a construction site, did not end up as a news story for her – but gave rise many years later to the plot of *The Child* (2017), one of her psychological thrillers.

"It's the part of the job I really enjoyed," says the 62-year-old over the telephone from her home in West Sussex, "not necessarily the gory details and violence, but what makes people do the things they do – finding the moment that makes somebody act in that way."

Before she turned to novel writing, Barton was a journalist and editor for more than 30 years at news outlets such as *The Daily Mail* and *The Daily Telegraph* and draws on this experience for her books featuring Kate Waters, a tenacious, resourceful reporter.

The first, *The Widow* (2016), was based on the "women on the edge of the story", the wives and mothers of the men at the centre of accidents and murder trials. "When they're sitting in court, is it the first time they've heard the reality of the crime? It always fascinated me to know what they knew and what they decided not to know."

She followed *The Widow*, a *New York Times* bestseller, with *The Child*, in which Kate investigates the decades-old mystery of a newborn stolen from a maternity ward and never found.

In her latest novel, *The Suspect*, the tables are turned on Kate when the deaths of two British girls on holiday in Bangkok turn out to involve her son, whom she has not seen since he went travelling two years ago. In every journalist's worst nightmare, Kate goes from chasing the story to becoming part of it, as the rest of the press pack turn on her.

"In the British press in the last few years, journalists have become the story with investigations into illegal activity by them," says Barton. "You think they'll deal with it because they know the ropes – but when you're suddenly cast on the other side of the net, I imagine it's difficult."

Barton, who is married with two children and has five grandchildren, left journalism to spend two years doing volunteer work in Sri Lanka. She later joined a media institute to train exiled journalists around the world. During this time, she began writing her first novel.

She prefers to write just after she wakes up, but before she gets out of bed, which she says is "terrible for my back, great for my writing".

Her news career has given her a "fantastic archive of characters, quirks and behaviour" that she draws on for her books.

The stories that stay with her are the ones that moved her, big or small – from the murder of a young student, whose mother kept in touch with Barton for years and sent her Christmas cards, to the kidnapping of a British couple on a charity mission in Chechnya, whom Barton interviewed after their release.

"It was a very dramatic story – they were moved all the time and hidden in cellars – it was incredible that they'd survived."

During a break from the interview, Barton was sitting with the woman and having a cup of coffee when she suddenly revealed that she had been raped repeatedly during captivity.

"It was a terrible moment," recalls Barton. "I thought, 'is she



Fiona Barton spent two years doing volunteer work in Sri Lanka and later joined a media institute to train exiled journalists around the world and began writing her first novel during this time. PHOTO: JENNY LEWIS

telling me as a friend or as an interviewer?" Sometimes people open up to you more than they would to a family member or a friend.

"So I talked to my news editor and he said, 'We need to be absolutely sure that she wants you to report this and she understands the implications.' I went back to her and said, 'Do you want this in the story?' It was a very difficult decision for her, but eventually she said she did.

"I didn't want to betray her trust, but I wanted the whole story to be told."

Journalism left her with a lot of pent-up emotions. "I've listened to stories that would make most people break down. Obviously I can't sit and cry in an interview, that would be no use to anybody and it's not my place to."

Instead, she cries at "stupid things" – episodes of radio shows, even scenes in her own books.

"There's a moment at the end of

The Child that made me absolutely sob. I suppose I'm channelling my emotions into novels now."

oliviaho@sph.com.sg

• Follow Olivia Ho on Instagram @ohomatopeia

• *The Widow* (\$14.98), *The Child* (\$14.98) and *The Suspect* (\$27.82) by Fiona Barton are available at Books Kinokuniya

Review

Colourful sketches of fabled fighters



FANTASY LEGENDS OF THE CONDOR HEROES #2: A BOND UNDONE
By Jin Yong
Translated by Gigi Chang
MacLehose Press/Paperback/
512 pages/\$29.95/Major bookstores
★★★★☆

Olivia Ho

In the wake of legendary Chinese writer Jin Yong's death last year comes the second volume of an ambitious English translation of his Condor Heroes series.

Anna Holmwood, the young Scottish translator who took on the first instalment of this wuxia (martial arts) epic in *A Hero Born* (2018), hands over the baton to Hong Kong translator Gigi Chang.

In *A Bond Undone*, innocent hero Guo Jing wanders the jianghu, the "lakes and rivers" that refer to the world of the martial arts pugilists, in the company of his sweetheart Huang Rong (translated controversially as Lotus Huang), who charms her way into power or cuts off the ears of people who annoy her, depending on what she feels like.

They are troubled by their run-ins with Wanyan Kang, the man in-

tended at birth to be Guo Jing's sworn brother but who still thinks of himself as the son and heir of the Jin prince, who is leading the invasion on the Song empire.

Where *A Hero Born* was largely devoted to laying the groundwork for Jin's marvellous, sprawling universe, *A Bond Undone* tracks the meteoric rise of its hero as he encounters gongfu greats and accumulates a hotchpotch of some of their most powerful skills.

Where the story excels is in its colourful sketches of these fabled fighters – the Beggar of the North, the Venom of the West and the Heretic of the East.

The first of these, an irreverent nine-fingered beggar chief, is persuaded by Lotus's extraordinary cooking to teach Guo Jing his indomitable 18 Dragon-Subduing Palms.

This stands Guo Jing in good stead when he is eventually pitted against the Venom, who wants Lotus to marry his rapacious nephew, and the Heretic, Lotus' father, a ruthless polymath who lives on the secluded, trap-riddled Peach Blossom Island and considers Guo Jing unworthy of his daughter's hand.

The elevated style with which the characters make lofty, heroic pronouncements can take getting used

to in translation, even if it can also be endearingly funny at a remove.

"Gallop to Zhongdu for your revenge," Guo Jing's teacher Ke Zhen'e tells him matter-of-factly. "If you succeed, excellent; if you fail this time, remember that it may take years for a man of principle to be avenged."

Chang has inherited the unenviable task of parsing numerous arcane martial techniques and complicated fight sequences. An early one in the Jin palace involves 14 people, not all of whom are memorable enough to be distinctive.

She makes a valiant attempt, but it often comes across as more academic than action-packed and the narrative sags in these sections.

But these dips are worth it for scenes such as the showdown between Lotus' suitors on Peach Blossom Island, which deliver on that flavour of the epic that has enshrined the late Jin Yong in the hearts of so many.

If you like this, read: The Hoshimaruhon trilogy by Wena Poon, beginning with *The Adventures Of Snow Fox And Sword Girl* (2014, \$26.20, Books Kinokuniya), a swashbuckling fantasy in which the wuxia kingdom of Jing and the samurai kingdom of Noh are at war.

Bestsellers

FICTION

- (2) *The Travelling Cat Chronicles* by Hiro Arikawa
- (4) *Love Looks Pretty On You* by Lang Leav
- (1) *Crazy Rich Asians* by Kevin Kwan
- (7) *Rich People Problems* by Kevin Kwan
- (3) *The Next Person You Meet In Heaven* by Mitch Albom
- (-) *Birthday Girl* by Haruki Murakami
- (-) *The Life-Changing Manga Of Tidying Up* by Marie Kondo
- (7) *The Five People You Meet In Heaven* by Mitch Albom
- (5) *China Rich Girlfriend* by Kevin Kwan
- (9) *Sea Of Strangers* by Lang Leav

NON-FICTION

- (1) *Becoming* by Michelle Obama
- (3) *The Subtle Art Of Not Giving A F*ck* by Mark Manson
- (8) *The Art Of Thinking Clearly* by Rolf Dobelli
- (-) *Love For Imperfect Things* by Haemin Sunim
- (4) *This Is What Inequality Looks Like* by Teo You Yenn
- (5) *Brief Answers To The Big Questions* by Stephen Hawking
- (2) *Billion Dollar Whale* by Tom Wright and Bradley Hope
- (10) *Sapiens: A Brief History Of Humankind* by Yuval Noah Harari
- (9) *Ikigai* by Hector Garcia and Francesc Miralles
- (10) *Tall Order* by Peh Shing Huei

CHILDREN'S

- (1) *Dog Man #6: Brawl Of The Wild* by Dav Pilkey
- (3) *Dog Man #5: Lord Of The Fleas* by Dav Pilkey
- (4) *Diary Of A Wimpy Kid: The Meltdown* by Jeff Kinney
- (5) *Dork Diaries #13: Tales From A Not-So-Happy Birthday* by Rachel Renee Russell
- (7) *Roblox Top Adventure Games* by Egmont
- (-) *Fantastic Beasts: The Crimes Of Grindelwald – The Original Screenplay* by J.K. Rowling
- (8) *Diary Of A Wimpy Kid: The Getaway* by Jeff Kinney
- (6) *Roblox Annual 2019* by Egmont
- (-) *When I Was A Kid #5* by Cheeming Boey
- (-) *Pinkfong ABC Activity Book* by Pinkfong

• This is The Straits Times' compilation of bestseller lists from Books Kinokuniya, Times, WHSmith and Popular bookstores.

Cuaron wins top Directors Guild award



PHOTO: REUTERS

LOS ANGELES • Alfonso Cuarón (left) was named Best Director by his peers last Saturday for his semi-autobiographical film *Roma*, cementing his front-runner status ahead of the Oscars in three weeks. In one of the last major Hollywood ceremonies before the Feb 24 Oscars, the Directors Guild of America (DGA) awarded its top prize to the Mexican director for his critically acclaimed black-and-white movie about a domestic

worker in 1970s Mexico. *Roma* has 10 Oscar nominations, including for Best Director and Best Picture. It was also named Best Latin American Picture at the Goya Awards, Spain's equivalent of the Oscars, last Saturday. The DGA award is one of the top indicators of Oscar glory. All but seven of the winners since 1948 have gone on to win the Best Director Oscar and, often, the top prize of Best Picture. Last year's DGA win-

ner, Guillermo del Toro (*The Shape of Water*), went on to win the same prize at the Oscars and the film took Best Picture honours. The DGA ceremony proved another disappointing night for Bradley Cooper, the actor-turned-director of musical romance *A Star Is Born*. He made his directorial debut with the movie and also acted in it, but last Saturday, he lost both the DGA award for Best Feature Film and prize for first-time feature film

director. The first-time director award went to Bo Burnham for young adult drama *Eighth Grade*. *A Star Is Born* has garnered multiple nominations, including eight Oscar nods, but neither Cooper nor lead actress Lady Gaga have secured major awards. Hollywood's long awards season has often proved contradictory and inconsistent this year. The Screen Actors Guild (SAG) last month selected musical Bo-

hemian Rhapsody for its top award. But *Roma* and British historical comedy *The Favourite*, which also has 10 Oscar nominations, were not among the SAG choices. Many of the guild's voters are also members of the Academy of Motion Picture Arts and Sciences. The Producers Guild, also a reliable bellwether of Oscar success, last month chose 1960s road-trip movie *Green Book* as its top movie. REUTERS, AGENCE FRANCE-PRESSE

Canadian record store rescues HMV with offer

LONDON • British music retailer HMV has received a last-minute offer from Canada's Sunrise Records to rescue the business from administration, the Financial Times reported on Sunday. HMV's creditors welcomed the offer, the report said, citing two sources familiar with the talks. It did not provide further financial details of the offer. Sky News reported last month that billionaire Mike Ashley, who controls British sportswear retailer Sports Direct International and owns English Premier League club Newcastle United, was in talks to rescue HMV from administration. HMV said in December that it was calling in administrators, blaming a worsening market for entertainment CDs and DVDs, the latest victim of brutal trading conditions in Britain's retail sector. The retailer, one of Britain's best-known high street stores, went into administration in 2013 before its rescue by restructuring specialist Hilco, but has since been hit by competition from online rivals and music streaming services. More recently, traditional players in the music industry have been hit by the growing popularity of online streaming services such as Spotify and Apple Music, which last year became the recording industry's single biggest revenue source. Sky News reported earlier that about 2,200 jobs were at risk if HMV went into administration, adding that the company had been in talks with leading names in the recorded music industry for funding, but that those discussions came to nothing. HMV was opened in London's Oxford Street by English composer Edward Elgar in 1921 and made famous by the image of the "dog and gramophone". The retailer – which had a hand in The Beatles' big break in the 1960s, recommending the group's demo record to publishers – had about 230 stores and more than 4,000 staff before it went into administration in 2013. REUTERS

On social media



JAY CHOU AND WIFE MEET BASKETBALL STAR: Actress-model Hannah Quinlivan is the envy of many National Basketball Association (NBA) fans after her husband, Taiwanese pop star Jay Chou, posted a photo of them with star player Stephen Curry in the United States. Quinlivan is a big fan of Curry, who plays for defending champions Golden State Warriors. Chou also tagged Curry in a video of them meeting him, with a caption saying: "If u come to my Vegas concert, just let me know. I will give u my mic." The singer is holding two concerts in Las Vegas this weekend. Chou and Quinlivan met Curry after watching the Warriors beat Los Angeles Lakers 115-101 at Oracle Arena in California, home of the Warriors. PHOTO: JAY CHOU/INSTAGRAM

Empire actor performs after attack

WEST HOLLYWOOD (California) • Jussie Smollett, the American singer and actor who said he was attacked by two men yelling racial and homophobic slurs, struck a defiant tone at a concert last Saturday, his first public appearance since he reported the assault last week. "I have so many words on my heart that I want to say, but the most important thing I can say is thank you so much, and that I'm okay," the star of Fox television show *Empire* (2015 to present) told the sold-out crowd at the Troubadour nightclub in West Hollywood. Smollett said that although he was not yet fully healed, "I had to be here tonight". He said he could not let his attackers win. The crowd, which included *Empire* co-creator Lee Daniels and Representative Maxine Waters of California, roared in approval, though Smollett quickly followed by saying: "Now let's have a good time." He began his set with a cover of Stevie Wonder's *Love's In Need Of Love Today*. Through his hour-long performance, he made clear his desire to move on from the assault. "We're not going to harp on" what happened, he said. Other than a small mark below his right eye, he showed no signs of injury, commanding the stage along with dancers and a backing band. Chicago police are combing through security camera footage and have identified two "potential persons of interest", but lack of progress in the investigation has fuelled speculation online that the attack did not happen as Smollett described. He addressed that speculation last Friday and again during his performance, as well as perceived inconsistencies regarding the severity of his injuries. "There's been a lot of stuff that's been said about me that's absolutely not true," he said last Saturday, reading from a crumpled piece of paper. "I was bruised, but my ribs were not cracked, they were not broken. I went to the doctor immediately." He said he was not hospitalised, and that "above all, I fought back". Tickets for his show were still available as of last Tuesday afternoon, but sold out within 48 hours of the assault being reported. NYTIMES

Obituary

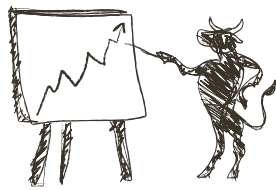
C.Y. Lee wrote best-selling novel The Flower Drum Song

WASHINGTON • C.Y. Lee, a China-born American author whose best-selling 1957 novel *The Flower Drum Song* explored conflict among first- and second-generation immigrants in San Francisco's Chinatown, provided the source material for two Broadway productions 43 years apart and sparked a cultural debate about Asian stereotypes, died on Nov 8 at his daughter's home in Los Angeles. He was 102. The cause was complications from kidney failure, said his daughter Angela Lee. The family did not publicly announce the death. Over a career spanning seven decades, Lee, whose full name is Lee Chin Yang, wrote nearly a

dozen volumes of historical fiction, but his best-known work was his debut novel, *The Flower Drum Song*, which brought instant literary stardom upon its release. He was called an overnight sensation, but he had in fact spent years toiling in obscurity after having arrived in the United States from China on a student visa during World War II. He wrote *The Flower Drum Song* while renting a room above a Filipino nightclub in San Francisco's Chinatown and working as an editor and columnist for one of the city's Chinese-language newspapers. The book concerned Wang Chi-

yang, a first-generation Chinese immigrant struggling to accept the cultural and generational gap he had with his American-raised son Wang Ta, particularly in matters of love and marriage. Lee's agent was turned down by nearly every major publisher in New York and was about to give up after a year when Farrar, Straus and Cudahy made a bid. Lee said the book's salvation came from an elderly man who had been paid by the publisher to screen manuscripts and had scrawled two words on the book before dying: "Read This." In a review for *The New York Times*, novelist Ildwaj Jones said Lee "writes with no omission of slang

and sex and every regard for the popular taste". The book shot up the bestseller list and caught the attention of screenwriter Joseph Fields, who persuaded the Broadway team of Richard Rodgers and Oscar Hammerstein to adapt it for the stage. The trio simplified Lee's narrative and the musical comedy *Flower Drum Song* had a two-year run on Broadway starting in 1958. The musical, which Lee said was "funny and more commercial" than his book, was directed by Gene Kelly and received several Tony Award nominations. It was the first mainstream play about Asians featuring a mostly Asian cast. After *The Flower Drum Song*, Lee published 10 other novels and a collection of short stories, many of which were translated into Chinese from English. They include *Lover's Point* (1958), about a Japanese-American woman's love affairs in San Francisco; and *China Saga* (1987), a multi-generational family drama. In playwright David Henry Hwang's foreword to the 2002 reissue of *The Flower Drum Song*, he called the novel an "Asian American classic". But Lee said in an interview with literary scholar Andrew Shin: "I never thought of it that way. I was just delighted if I could sell anything." WASHINGTON POST



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CHANNEL 5

AM
6.00 Holiday Special: Salzburg Festival 2016: Yuja Wang And The Camerata Salzburg (Cul)
7.45 Holiday Special: Rose Parade 2019 (V) (Premiere)
10.00 Holiday Special: Alicia Keys Plays Baloise Session (PG) (Cul) (Premiere)
PM
12.00 Holiday Special: Simple Minds: Acoustic In Concert (V)
1.15 Holiday Movie: Legally Blonde (PG) (M)
3.10 Holiday Special: Miss World Festival 2018 (V)
6.00 Holiday Special: Weird, True & Freaky (PG) (V) (Premiere)
7.00 Holiday Movie: Babe: Pig In The City (PG) (M)
9.00 News 5
9.30 Holiday Special: Make You Laugh Out Loud 4b (PG) (V)
10.00 Holiday Movie: Keeping Up With The Joneses (PG13) (M) (Premiere)
AM
12.00 Holiday Special: 2018 Miss Universe Pageant (PG13) (V)
2.20 Holiday Special: Alicia Keys Plays Baloise Session (PG) (Cul)
4.00 Holiday Special: Simple Minds: Acoustic In Concert (V)
5.10 Holiday Special: Weird, True & Freaky (PG) (V)

CHANNEL 8

AM
6.00 Golden Melody (V)
7.30 Hello Singapore Highlights (HD) (News)
8.00 Food And Beverage Investigators Lunar New Year Special (IE)
9.00 Morning Express (HD) (News)
9.30 Jalan Jalan (PG) (CC) (D)
10.00 iWalker – Moving Kitchen Chinese New Year Special 2019 (IE)
11.00 Genius Go Go Go 2019 Lunar New Year Special (V)
PM
1.00 News 8 At One (HD) (News)
1.30 Lunar New Year's Eve Special 2019 (V)
3.30 iWalker – Places To Travel Chinese New Year Special 2019 (IE)
4.15 Lunar New Year Day 1 Movie: Mission Milano (PG) (CC) (M)

6.30 Hello Singapore (HD) (News)
7.30 Jalan Jalan (PG) (CC) (D)
8.00 Lunar New Year Day 1 Movie: Monster Hunt (PG) (M)
10.00 News Tonight (HD)
10.30 Lunar New Year Day 1 Movie: Journey To The West: The Demons Strike Back (PG13) (CC) (M)
AM
1.00 iWalker – Moving Kitchen Chinese New Year Special 2019 (IE)
2.00 Genius Go Go Go 2019 Lunar New Year Special (V)
4.00 iWalker – Places To Travel Chinese New Year Special 2019 (IE)
5.00 3-Plus-1 (V)

CHANNEL U

PM
1.00 MayDay 20th Anniversary "Back To 1997.03.29" Live Concert (V)
2.30 Lunar New Year Day 1 Movie: Return Of The Cuckoo (PG) (CC) (M)
4.40 Jiangsu Countdown Concert 2019 (CC) (V)
8.30 Lunar New Year Day 1 Movie: Railroad Tigers (PG) (CC) (M)
11.00 News Tonight
11.30 Lunar New Year Day 1 Movie: S Storm (PG13) (CC) (M)
AM
1.30 National Flavours (CC) (IE)
2.30 Close

CNA

AM
6.00 Singapore Tonight
7.00 News Now
7.30 Luxe Asia 5: The Ultimate Access
8.00 News Now
8.30 First Look Encore
9.00 News Now
9.30 Luxe Asia 5: The Ultimate Access
10.02 Real Deal
11.00 News Now
11.30 Luxe Asia 5: The Ultimate Access
PM
12.00 News Now
12.30 First Look Encore
1.02 Real Deal
2.00 News Now
2.30 Luxe Asia 5: The Ultimate Access
3.00 News Now
3.30 First Look Encore
4.02 Real Deal

5.00 News Now
5.30 Luxe Asia 5: The Ultimate Access
6.00 News Now
6.30 In Search Of Umami
7.02 Real Deal (CC)
8.00 Primetime Asia
8.30 In Search Of Umami (CC)
9.02 Real Deal (CC)
10.00 Singapore Tonight
10.30 In Search Of Umami (CC)
11.02 Undercover Asia 6
AM
12.00 News Now
12.30 Power List Asia 5
1.02 Real Deal
2.00 News Now
2.30 The Successors 6
3.02 Singapore On Film
4.00 News Now
4.30 Power List Asia 5
5.02 Real Deal
Programmes may be pre-empted by breaking news

VASANTHAM

AM
7.00 Thein Amuthu 2018 (V)
8.00 Ha Ha Ha Sirippu 2018 (V)
9.00 Motu Patlu (S)
9.30 MGR Concert (V)
PM
12.00 Friends Special – Chinese New Year Special 2015 (IE)
1.00 Naanum Rowdy Thaana (PG) (M)
4.00 Sa Re Ga Mae 2018 (V)
4.30 Taal (PG) (M)
7.30 OK Kanmani (S)
8.00 Vera Level Chinese New Year Special 2018 (IE)
8.30 Tamil Seithi (News)
9.00 Lakshmi (PG) (M)
AM
12.00 Tamil Seithi (Encore) (News)
12.30 Close

OKTO

AM
9.00 Dora The Explorer Specials: Dora Saves The Crystal Kingdom (P)
10.00 Alpha And Omega: Family Vacation (S)
11.00 Mouk (P)
11.30 Ready Jet Go! (P)
PM
12.00 Hiccup & Sneeze (P)
12.30 Teddies (P)

1.00 Coconut The Little Dragon (P)
1.30 Tip The Mouse (P)
2.00 Andy's Prehistoric Adventures (P)
2.30 Sesame Street (P)
3.00 Mouk (P)
3.30 Ready Jet Go! (P)
4.00 Odd Squad (HD) (S)
4.30 Captain Flinn And The Pirate Dinosaurs (S)
5.00 Littlest Pet Shop (S)
5.30 Marcus Level (S)
6.00 OddBods (HD) (S)
6.30 Museum Mysteries (S)
7.00 Arlo The Burping Pig (M)
8.30 Inazuma Eleven (CC) (S)
9.00 BWF Grand Prix – German Open 2018 (Sports) (Encore)
11.30 American Ninja Warrior 6 (HD) (PG) (Sports)
AM
12.20 Close

SURIA

AM
10.00 Swap Kerja (PG) (CC) (IE)
11.00 Aku, Dia & Tong Sampah (Telemovie)
PM
1.00 Rapsodi 2018 (V)
2.30 Sembang Pacak 2 (V)
3.00 Ye Ke?! (V)
4.00 Secarik Kasih Mama (PG) (CC) (Telemovie)
6.00 Medic Kid (CC) (S) (Debut)
6.30 Kelana Rasa (CC) (IE)
7.00 Makmum Yang Paling Aku Cinta (PG) (CC) (D)
8.00 Berita (HD) (News)
8.30 Kek Champion (CC) (V)
9.30 Rapuh (CC) (D) (Debut)
10.30 Julia Juli Bintang Cinta (PG) (CC) (Telemovie)
AM
12.30 Berita (HD) (News) (R)
1.00 Close

C: Children; CA: Current Affairs; CC: Closed Captions; Cul: Culture; D: Drama; IE: Info-Ed; M: Movies; P: Preschool; PG: Parental Guidance; R: Repeat; S: Schoolkids; SC: Sitcom; V: Variety

Programme schedules correct at time of printing. Telecast details from Mediacorp, StarHub and Singtel TV. For pay TV updates, go to www.starhub.com/tv or www.singtelv.com.sg

TheStarsSay

Aries (March 21 - April 19)
Put off getting involved with anything legal or serious for a few days until your good energy returns.

Taurus (April 20 - May 20)
People whom you have had a hard time getting along with are drawn to you because of your common goals.

Gemini (May 21 - June 20)
Life is confusing, but you have to take care of some responsibilities. Get help if you need to forge ahead.

Cancer (June 21 - July 22)
Dig deeply into whatever has been eating at your brain or help someone with his spiritual problems.

Leo (July 23 - Aug 22)
People might get dramatic over a piece of news. Be patient and let them release their pent-up feelings.

Virgo (Aug 23 - Sept 22)
Opinions are everywhere and you need to do what you can to make sure they are all being heard.

Libra (Sept 23 - Oct 22)
Do not take on new projects – your energy needs to wear itself out on whatever is right in front of you.

Scorpio (Oct 23 - Nov 21)
Something weird is going on and you need to figure out what is up. You have the right resources to do it.

Sagittarius (Nov 22 - Dec 21)
Push your boundaries. If you can find a new way to get ahead, things will get better for you.

Capricorn (Dec 22 - Jan 19)
Art is appealing, so make sure you can get some into your life and indulge your creative side.

Aquarius (Jan 20 - Feb 18)
Do what it takes to put your needs first. Let squalling children and demanding clients take a back seat.

Pisces (Feb 19 - March 20)
Make things happen. You can tell others what is going on and get them to see things your way.

• Provided by Astrology.com (www.astrology.com)

Radio

KISS92

AM
6.00 Maddy, Jason & Arnold In The Morning
10.00 Carol Smith
PM
1.00 Charmaine Yee
4.00 Shan Wee
8.00 Josh's Goodnight Kiss

ONE FM 91.3

AM
6.00 ONE FM's #1 Breakfast Show With Glenn And The Flying Dutchman
10.00 Cheryl Miles
PM
4.00 Weekdays With ONE FM

MONEY FM 89.3

AM
6.00 The Breakfast Huddle With Elliott Danker, Yasmin Jonkers & Ryan Huang
10.00 Midday With Howie Lim
PM
2.00 Prime Time With Claressa Monteiro
4.00 The Curve With Michelle Martin & Bernard Lim

UFM100.3

AM
6.00 UFM100.3 Mornings With Wenhong, Limei & Xiaozhu
10.00 Lively Life With Kemrin
PM
1.00 Tea With Yuling
4.00 Sing-a-long With Xinying & Weilong
8.00 Feel The Night With Chengyao

96.3 HAO FM

AM
6.00 Morning Drive Time With Jing Yun, De Ming And Jie Qi
10.00 Lunch Break With Anna
PM
1.00 Automation
4.00 Evening Drive Time With Li Yi And Guo Xian
8.00 Night Time With Wei Wen

Tides

SUN RISE/SET TIME: 7.17am/7.21pm
MOON RISE/SET TIME: 7.28am/7.46pm

TIDES TODAY: Singapore: 12.26am (2.7m), 5.30am (1.5m), 11.22am (3m), 5.56pm (0.5m). Desaru: 12.07am (2.7m), 5.28am (1.8m), 10.31am (2.5m), 5.16pm (0.8m). Port Dickson: 1.28am (0.2m), 7.12am (2.5m), 2.08pm (0.5m), 7.46pm (2.4m). Mersing: 5.39am (1.9m), 10.04am (2.4m), 4.44pm (0.9m), 11.52pm (3.2m).

TIDES TOMORROW: Singapore: 12.48am (2.8m), 6.01am (1.4m), 11.52am (3m), 6.30pm (0.5m). Desaru: 12.30am (2.7m), 5.54am (1.7m), 11.11am (2.6m), 5.48pm (0.8m). Port Dickson: 2.01am (0.2m), 7.40am (2.5m), 2.33pm (0.4m), 8.14pm (2.5m). Mersing: 6.04am (1.8m), 10.48am (2.5m), 5.19pm (0.9m).

For updates and more details, call Meteorological Service Singapore, NEA, on 6542-7788 or go to www.nea.gov.sg

StarHub TV

HISTORY (CHANNEL 401)

AM
8.00 Storage Wars 10
8.30 Swamp People 8
9.30 History Drama: Vikings 5
10.25 The Pickers 9
11.20 Counting Cars 7
PM
12.15 The Curse Of Oak Island 4
1.10 Swamp People 8
2.05 Pawn Stars 18
2.35 Storage Wars: Miami
3.00 Storage Wars 10
3.30 History Drama: Vikings 5
4.25 The Pickers 9
5.20 Counting Cars 7
6.15 Swamp People 8
7.10 Pawn Stars 18
8.05 Storage Wars: Miami
8.30 Storage Wars 10
9.00 Storage Wars 12
9.25 Storage Wars: Texas 5
9.55 Forged In Fire 4
10.50 Mountain Men 7
11.45 The Curse Of Oak Island 4

LIFETIME (CHANNEL 514)

AM
8.00 The Ellen DeGeneres Show 16
9.00 Gok's Fill Your House For Free
10.00 Making A Model With Yolanda Hadid
11.00 Atlanta Plastic
PM
12.00 Dance Moms 7
1.00 The Ellen DeGeneres Show 16
2.00 The Bling Ring
3.35 Leah Remini: Scientology & The Aftermath
4.30 Live PD Presents: Women On Patrol
5.00 The Ellen DeGeneres Show 16
6.00 Man Vs Child: Chef Showdown 2
7.00 The Amazing Race Canada 3
8.00 Love At First Flight
9.00 The Ellen DeGeneres Show 16
10.00 Girl Fight
11.35 Man Vs Child: Chef Showdown 2

HBO (CHANNEL 601)

AM
8.15 Toy Story 3
9.55 Wonder Woman
PM
12.15 Transformers: The Last Knight (NC16)
2.45 Puss In Boots (2011)
4.15 Catch Me If You Can
6.35 Captain America: Civil War
9.00 Ready Player One (NC16)
11.15 Thor

CINEMAX (CHANNEL 611)

AM
7.30 Star Wars: Episode VI – Return Of The Jedi
9.40 Spy Kids (PG)
11.10 Strike Back 6 (NC16)

PM

12.10 The Godfather (NC16)
3.05 The Perfect Storm
5.15 Aloha
7.00 The One (PG)
8.30 The Scorpion King
10.00 The Godfather 2

HUB E CITY (CHANNEL 825)

AM
9.00 Xinyao 31 Reunion Concert (Part 1)
11.00 Gourmet Breakfast (HD)
PM
12.00 Easy Cooking Chinese New Year Special (HD)
12.30 100% Entertainment Chinese New Year Special (HD)
2.30 2nd Soribada K-Music Awards (HD)
5.30 Easy Cooking Chinese New Year Special (HD)
6.30 Super Ethnic Chinese 2019 (HD)
10.00 The Village Of No Return (HD)

HUB SPORTS 1 (CHANNEL 201)

AM
8.00 ISU European Figure Skating Championships 2019: Opening & Pairs' Short Programme
11.30 Tennis: ATP World Tour Uncovered 2019
PM
12.00 Tennis: ATP 500 ABN Amro World Tennis Tournament 2018 Day 5: Quarter-finals
6.00 Motorsports: FIA World RallyCross Championship 2018 Round 5 Norway Highlights
7.00 Tennis: 2019 Davis Cup By BNP Paribas Qualifier Round: Germany Vs Hungary Highlights
8.00 Snooker: 2018 Shanghai Masters Finals Highlights
11.30 Tennis: Deuce 2019

HUB SPORTS 2 (CHANNEL 202)

AM
7.00 Football: EFL Championship 2018 Matchday 30 Sheffield United Vs Bolton Wanderers
9.00 Wrestling: WWE Raw (PG13) (Live)
PM
12.00 HSBC World Rugby Sevens World Series 2018/19 Round 4 Sydney: Matches 13 To 16
1.30 HSBC World Rugby Sevens World Series 2018/19 Round 4 Sydney: Matches 17 To 20
3.00 HSBC World Rugby Sevens World Series 2018/19 Round 4 Sydney: Matches 21 To 24
4.30 Wrestling: WWE Experience (PG)
5.30 National Basketball League Round 16 Cairns Taipans Vs Adelaide 36ers
7.30 Magazine: Omnisport TV
8.00 Wrestling: WWE This Week (PG)
8.30 Football: The EFL Highlights 2018/19
9.00 The Football Review
9.30 Asean Basketball League 2018/19 San Miguel Alab Pilipinas Vs Saigon Heat
11.30 Magazine: Omnisport TV

Singtel TV

CARTOON NETWORK (CHANNEL 226)

AM
6.00 Oggy & The Cockroaches
7.00 The Tom And Jerry Show
8.00 Running Man Animation
9.00 Teen Titans Go!
10.00 We Bare Bears
11.00 The Powerpuff Girls
PM
12.00 Ben 10
1.00 Steven Universe
2.00 Ninjago: Masters Of Spinjitzu
2.30 Adventure Time
3.30 The Amazing World Of Gumball
4.00 We Bare Bears
4.30 The Powerpuff Girls
5.00 Teen Titans Go!
5.30 Craig Of The Creek
6.00 Teen Titans Go!
7.00 Adventure Time
8.00 We Bare Bears
9.00 The Powerpuff Girls
10.00 Regular Show
10.30 Steven Universe
11.00 Clarence
11.30 Adventure Time

AXN (HD) (CHANNEL 304)

AM
6.00 MacGyver 2
6.50 Criminal Minds: Suspect Behavior
7.40 Team Ninja Warrior
8.30 Rude(ish) Tube
9.00 Asia's Got Talent 2
PM
1.55 Hotel Transylvania 2
3.40 Vantage Point
5.30 White House Down
8.00 Bad Boys
10.30 The Blacklist 6
11.20 Hawaii Five-0 9

WARNER TV (HD) (CHANNEL 306)

AM
6.00 The Carbonaro Effect
6.50 Major Crimes 5
7.40 DC's Legends Of Tomorrow
8.30 Friends 9
9.00 Pan
11.00 Rush Hour 3
PM
12.40 Keanu
2.20 Harry Potter And The Order Of The Phoenix
4.55 Harry Potter And The Half-Blood Prince
7.45 San Andreas
9.50 Arrow 7

10.40 The Big Bang Theory 9
11.05 Friends 9
11.30 Crazy, Stupid, Love

COMEDY CENTRAL ASIA (HD) (CHANNEL 324)

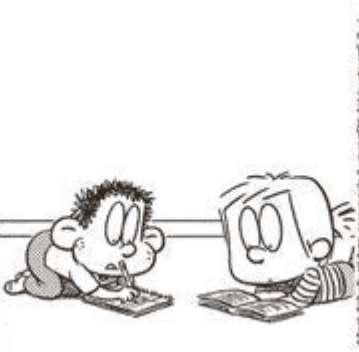
AM
6.00 At Midnight With Chris Hardwick 2
6.25 The Daily Show 24
6.55 Just For Laughs Gags 14
7.20 Mr Bean
7.50 Most Ridiculous
8.15 Amazingness
8.35 Mr Bean
9.05 Karaoke Showdown
9.30 Just For Laughs Gags 14
9.55 Hot In Cleveland
10.45 Mr Bean
11.15 Saturday Night Live 43
PM
12.05 The Daily Show 24
12.30 Eddie Izzard: The United Nations Of Comedy
1.15 The Comedy Jam
2.05 Saturday Night Live 43
2.55 The Burn With Jeff Ross 2
3.20 Jeff Ross Presents Roast Battle
4.10 Lip Sync Battle 4
5.00 Mr Bean
5.30 Inside Comedy 2
6.00 The Daily Show 24
6.25 Your Face Or Mine 4
6.55 Amazingness
7.15 Above Average Presents
7.25 Billy On The Street 3
7.50 Most Ridiculous
8.15 Above Average Presents
8.20 Karaoke Showdown
8.45 Lip Sync Battle 4
9.15 Saturday Night Live 44
10.05 50 Central
10.30 Inside Amy Schumer 2
10.55 Above Average Presents
11.00 The Jim Jefferies Show
11.25 Above Average Presents
11.30 The Daily Show 24

JIA LE (HD) (CHANNEL 502)

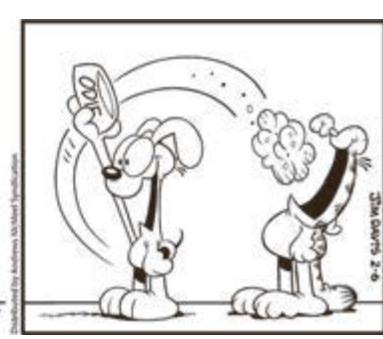
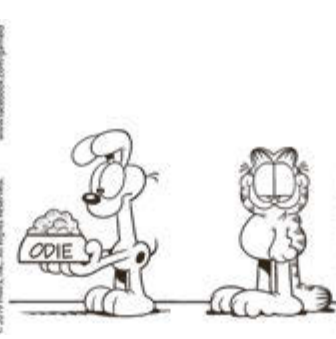
AM
7.00 The Golden Melodies 2018
8.30 Oh, Pretty Woman
10.45 Super Nightclub
PM
12.00 Stylish Man Chinese New Year Special 2019
1.00 Mei-Fong's Cooking Show – Chinese New Year Special 2019
2.00 2019 Taipei New Year's Eve Countdown Party
8.00 Stylish Man Chinese New Year Special 2019
9.00 The Golden Melodies 2018
10.30 Angel Vivi

Comics

BABY BLUES



GARFIELD



Free to air

CHANNEL 5

AM
6.00 Holiday Special: Lang Lang Live At The Royal Albert Hall (Cul)
8.20 Holiday Special: Cirque Du Soleil: Toruk – The First Flight (PG) (V)
10.00 Holiday Special: Norah Jones Plays Baloise Session (Cul) (Premiere)
11.30 Holiday Special: Stars In Style 4 (PG) (V)
PM
12.00 Holiday Special: Carpool Karaoke 2018 Special (PG) (V)
1.00 Holiday Movie: Legally Blonde 2: Red, White And Blonde (PG) (M)
3.00 Holiday Special: The Brit Awards 2018 (PG) (V) (Premiere)
5.00 Holiday Special: Bruno Mars Presents 24K Magic Live At The Apollo (PG) (V)
6.00 Holiday Special: Weird, True & Freaky (PG) (V)
7.00 Holiday Movie: The Lego Movie (CC) (M)
9.00 News 5
9.30 Holiday Special: Make You Laugh Out Loud 4b (PG) (CC) (V)
10.00 Holiday Movie: Central Intelligence (PG13) (CC) (M) (Premiere)
AM
12.10 Holiday Movie: At Any Price (PG13) (M)
2.10 Holiday Special: Norah Jones Plays Baloise Session (Cul)
3.30 Holiday Special: Carpool Karaoke 2018 Special (PG) (V)
4.30 Make You Laugh Out Loud 3 (V)
5.00 Holiday Special: The Brit Awards 2018 (PG) (V)

CHANNEL 8

AM
6.00 Golden Melody (V)
7.30 Hello Singapore Highlights (HD) (News)
8.00 Food And Beverage Investigators Lunar New Year Special (IE)
9.00 Morning Express (HD) (News)
9.30 Jalan Jalan (PG) (CC) (D)
10.00 China Music Awards 2018 (V)
PM
12.30 Comfort Food Recipes 2 (Chinese New Year Specials) (IE)

1.00 News 8 At One (HD)
1.30 CCTV Lunar New Year Countdown 2019 (V)
6.30 Hello Singapore (HD) (News)
7.30 Jalan Jalan (PG) (CC) (D)
8.00 Away With My BFF (CC) (V)
9.00 Walk With Me (PG) (CC) (D)
10.00 News Tonight (HD)
10.30 Lunar New Year Day 2 Movie: Monster Hunt 2 (PG) (CC) (M)
AM
1.00 CCTV Lunar New Year Countdown 2019 (V)

CHANNEL U

PM
1.00 Mysterious Tastes (Chinese New Year Special) (IE)
2.00 Lunar New Year Day 2 Movie: Bounty Hunters (PG) (CC) (M)
4.30 Running 2019 Zhejiang TV Concert (CC) (V)
8.45 Lunar New Year Day 2 Movie: Line Walker (PG) (CC) (M)
11.00 News Tonight
11.30 Lunar New Year Day 2 Movie: Mrs K (PG13) (CC) (M)
AM
1.30 Mysterious Tastes (Chinese New Year Special) (IE)
2.30 Close

CNA

AM
6.00 Singapore Tonight
6.30 First Look Encore
7.00 News Now
7.30 Luxe Asia 5: The Ultimate Access
8.00 News Now
8.30 The Making Of Singapore on Film
9.00 News Now
9.30 Luxe Asia 5: The Ultimate Access
10.02 Coming Clean About Green
11.00 News Now
11.30 Luxe Asia 5: The Ultimate Access
PM
12.00 News Now
12.30 First Look Encore
1.02 Coming Clean About Green
2.00 News Now
2.30 Luxe Asia 5: The Ultimate Access
3.00 News Now
3.30 First Look Encore

4.02 Coming Clean About Green
5.00 News Now
5.30 Luxe Asia 5: The Ultimate Access
6.00 News Now
6.30 In Search Of Umami
7.02 Real Deal (CC)
8.00 Primetime Asia
8.30 In Search Of Umami (CC)
9.02 Champions For Change (CC)
10.00 Singapore Tonight
10.30 In Search Of Umami (CC)
11.02 Real Deal
AM
12.00 News Now
12.30 Power List Asia 5
1.02 Champions For Change
2.00 News Now
2.30 The Successors 6
3.02 Undercover Asia 6
4.00 News Now
4.30 Power List Asia 5
5.02 Champions For Change
Programmes may be pre-empted by breaking news

VASANTHAM

AM
7.00 Thein Amuthu 2018 (V)
8.00 Ha Ha Ha Sirippu 2018 (V)
9.00 Motu Patlu 3 (S)
9.30 Vasantham Live Sangamam (V)
PM
1.00 Villain (PG) (M)
4.00 Sa Re Ga Ma 2018 (V)
4.30 King Liar (PG) (M)
7.30 Thirai Express (V)
8.30 Tamil Seithi (News)
9.00 Ethiroli 15 (HD) (CC) (CA)
9.30 Theerpugal 4 (CC) (IE)
10.00 Anjaan (PG13) (M)
AM
1.00 Tamil Seithi (Encore) (News)
1.30 Close

OKTO

AM
9.00 Dora The Explorer Specials – Dora's Birthday Adventure (P)
10.00 Thomas & Friends Journey Beyond Sodor (P)
11.30 Ready Jet Go! (P)
PM
12.00 Hiccup & Sneeze (P)

12.30 Teddies (P)
1.00 Coconut The Little Dragon (P)
1.30 Tip The Mouse (P)
2.00 Andy's Prehistoric Adventures (P)
2.30 Sesame Street (HD) (P)
3.00 Mouk (P)
3.30 Ready Jet Go! (P)
4.00 Odd Squad (S)
4.30 Captain Flinn And The Pirate Dinosaurs (S)
5.00 Littlest Pet Shop (S)
5.30 Marcus Level (S)
6.00 OddBods (HD) (S)
6.30 Totally Totto (HD) (S)
7.00 Stuart Little 2 (CC) (M)
8.30 Inazuma Eleven (HD) (CC) (S)
9.00 BWF Grand Prix – German Open 2018 (Sports)
AM
12.00 Close

SURIA

AM
10.00 Cantik Detektif 2 (PG) (CC) (IE)
11.00 Aku, Dia & Tong Gas (Telemovie)
AM
1.00 Konsert Gergasi KRU25 (V)
3.00 Sembang Teh Tarik Kaw (V)
4.00 Esok Untuk Kita (PG) (CC) (Telemovie)
5.00 Rintihan Hati (HD) (CC) (D)
6.00 Ejen Ali (S)
6.30 Top 5 Makan (CC) (IE)
7.00 Makmum Yang Paling Aku Cinta (PG) (CC) (D)
8.00 Berita (HD) (News)
8.30 Detik (PG) (CA)
9.00 Inspirasi Hive! (IE)
9.30 Hilang Kasih Di Sarajevo (CC) (D)
10.30 Julia Juli Bintang Putus Cinta (PG) (CC) (Telemovie)
AM
12.30 Berita (HD) (News) (R)
1.00 Close

C: Children; CA: Current Affairs;
CC: Closed Captions; Cul: Culture;
D: Drama; IE: Info-Ed; M: Movies;
P: Preschool; PG: Parental Guidance;
R: Repeat; S: Schoolkids; SC: Sitcom;
V: Variety

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9.00 Lethal Weapon 3
9.50 Rush Hour 3
11.30 Race To The Scene

COMEDY CENTRAL ASIA (HD) (CHANNEL 324)

AM
6.00 At Midnight With Chris Hardwick 2
6.25 The Daily Show 24
6.55 Just For Laughs Gags 14
7.20 Mr Bean
7.50 Most Ridiculous
8.15 Amazingness
8.40 Mr Bean
9.10 Caraoke Showdown
9.35 Just For Laughs Gags 14
10.00 Hot In Cleveland
10.50 Mr Bean
11.20 Saturday Night Live 43
PM
12.10 The Daily Show 24
12.35 Russell Peters And Friends
1.20 The Comedy Jam
2.10 Saturday Night Live 43
3.00 The Burn With Jeff Ross 2
3.20 Jeff Ross Presents Roast Battle
4.15 Above Average Presents
4.25 Lip Sync Battle 4
5.15 Mr Bean
5.45 Inside Comedy 2
6.15 The Daily Show 24
6.40 Your Face Or Mine 4
7.10 Above Average Presents
7.15 Amazingness
7.40 Billy On The Street 3
8.05 Most Ridiculous
8.30 The Goldbergs 5
9.20 Hot In Cleveland 6
10.10 Inglorious Pranksters
10.25 Above Average Presents
10.30 Inside Amy Schumer 2
10.55 Above Average Presents
11.00 The Jim Jefferies Show
11.25 Above Average Presents
11.30 The Daily Show 24

JIA LE (HD) (CHANNEL 502)

AM
7.00 The Golden Melodies 2018
10.00 Angel Vivi
PM
12.00 Stylish Man Chinese New Year Special 2019
1.00 Mei-Fong's Cooking Show – Chinese New Year Special 2019
2.00 2019 Kaoshiung Countdown Show
8.00 Stylish Man Chinese New Year Special 2019
9.00 The Golden Melodies 2018
10.30 Love Scams

StarHub TV

HISTORY (CHANNEL 401)

AM
7.35 Storage Wars: Miami
8.00 Storage Wars 10
8.30 Swamp People 8
9.30 Mountain Men 7
10.25 Forged In Fire 4
11.20 Storage Wars 12
11.45 Storage Wars: Texas 5
PM
12.15 The Curse Of Oak Island 4
1.10 Swamp People 8
2.05 Pawn Stars 18
2.35 History Drama: Project Blue Book
6.10 Swamp People 8
7.10 Pawn Stars 18
8.05 History Drama: Project Blue Book
9.00 Ancient Aliens 10
9.55 History Drama: Project Blue Book
10.50 Hunting Hitler 2
11.45 The Curse Of Oak Island 4

LIFETIME (CHANNEL 514)

AM
7.00 Man Vs Child: Chef Showdown 2
8.00 The Ellen DeGeneres Show 16
9.00 Gok's Fill Your House For Free
10.00 Glam Masters
11.00 Atlanta Plastic
PM
12.00 Dance Moms 7
1.00 The Ellen DeGeneres Show 16
2.00 Girl Fight
3.35 Love At First Flight
4.30 Who Runs The World With Mongchin
5.00 The Ellen DeGeneres Show 16
6.00 Man Vs Child: Chef Showdown 2
7.00 Little Women LA: Terra's Little Family
7.30 Married At First Sight Australia 4
9.00 The Ellen DeGeneres Show 16
10.00 I'll Be Watching
11.35 Man Vs Child: Chef Showdown 2

HBO (CHANNEL 601)

AM
6.00 Lilo & Stitch
7.25 Brave
8.55 The Parent Trap
11.00 Ready Player One (NC16)
PM
1.15 Captain America: Civil War
3.40 Cars (2006)
5.35 Despicable Me 3
7.05 Kong: Skull Island (NC16)
9.00 The Fate Of The Furious (NC16)
11.10 True Detective 3 (NC16)

CINEMAX (CHANNEL 611)

AM
7.45 The Godfather 2
11.00 Black Hawk Down (NC16)
PM
1.20 The Scorpion King
2.50 Star Wars: Episode III – Revenge Of The Sith
5.05 The One (PG)
6.30 Tommy Boy
8.05 Driven
10.00 The Godfather 3

HUB E CITY (CHANNEL 825)

AM
8.00 Gourmet Breakfast (HD)
9.00 XinYao 31 Reunion Concert (Part 2)
11.00 Gourmet Breakfast (HD)
PM
12.00 Easy Cooking Chinese New Year Special (HD)
12.30 Just Dance Chinese New Year Special (HD)
2.00 Jiangsu Spring Festival (HD)
5.30 iWalker Chinese New Year Special (HD)
6.30 New Style Chinese New Year Special (HD)
8.00 Hot Door Night Chinese New Year Special (Part 1) (HD)
10.00 She Remembers, He Forgets (HD)

HUB SPORTS 1 (CHANNEL 201)

AM
8.00 ISU European Figure Skating Championships 2019: Pairs' Free Skating
11.00 Extreme Sports: World Surf League 2018: Billabong Pipe Masters Highlights
PM
12.00 Tennis: ATP 500 ABN Amro World Tennis Tournament 2018 Day 6: Semi-finals
3.30 Tennis: Deuce 2019
4.00 Tennis: 2019 Davis Cup By BNP Paribas Qualifier Round: Germany Vs Hungary Highlights
5.00 Multi Sport: Action Sports World 2018
6.00 Motorsports: FIA World RallyCross Championship 2018 Round 6 Sweden Highlights
7.00 Mountain Bike: Crankworx World Tour 2018: Whistler Highlights
8.00 Snooker: 2018 English Open Quarter-finals Highlights
11.30 FEI Equestrian World 2019
AM
12.00 ISU European Figure Skating Championships 2019: Ice Dance Short Dance

HUB SPORTS 2 (CHANNEL 202)

AM
9.00 Wrestling: WWE Smackdown (PG) (Live)/11.00 The Football Review
11.30 Magazine: Omnisport.TV
PM
12.00 HSBC World Rugby Sevens World Series 2018/19 Round 4 Sydney: Matches 25 To 28 Quarter-finals/1.30 HSBC World Rugby Sevens World Series 2018/19 Round 4 Sydney: Matches 29 To 32 Quarter-finals
3.00 HSBC World Rugby Sevens World Series 2018/19 Round 4 Sydney: Matches 33 To 36 Semi-finals
4.30 Wrestling: WWE This Week (PG)
5.00 National Basketball League Round 16 Brisbane Bullets Vs Sydney Kings
7.00 Magazine: Omnisport.TV
7.30 Asean Basketball League 2018/19 Mono Vampire Vs Singapore Slingers (Live)
9.30 Wrestling: WWE Raw (PG13)
AM
12.00 Wrestling: WWE This Week (PG)
12.30 The Football Review
1.00 Football: The EFL Highlights 2018/19
1.30 Football: Coppa Italia 2018/19 Highlights

Singtel TV

CARTOON NETWORK (CHANNEL 226)

AM
6.00 Oggy & The Cockroaches
7.00 The Tom And Jerry Show
8.00 Running Man Animation
9.00 Teen Titans Go!
10.00 We Bare Bears
11.00 The Powerpuff Girls
PM
12.00 Ben 10
1.00 Steven Universe
2.00 Ninjago: Masters Of Spinjitzu
2.30 Adventure Time
3.30 The Amazing World Of Gumball
4.00 We Bare Bears
4.30 The Powerpuff Girls
5.00 Teen Titans Go!
5.30 Craig Of The Creek
6.00 Teen Titans Go!
7.00 Adventure Time
8.00 We Bare Bears
9.00 The Powerpuff Girls
9.00 Regular Show
10.30 Steven Universe
11.00 Clarence
11.30 Adventure Time

AXN (HD) (CHANNEL 304)

AM
6.00 MacGyver 2
6.50 Criminal Minds: Suspect Behavior
7.40 Team Ninja Warrior
8.30 Rude(Ish) Tube
9.00 Asia's Got Talent 2
PM
1.50 The Replacement Killers
3.45 Charlie's Angels
5.45 Charlie's Angels: Full Throttle
8.00 Bad Boys II
10.35 Supernatural 14
11.25 Seal Team 2

WARNER TV (HD) (CHANNEL 306)

AM
6.00 The Carbonaro Effect
6.50 Major Crimes 5
7.40 DC's Legends Of Tomorrow
8.30 Friends 9
9.00 The Lord Of The Rings: The Fellowship Of The Ring
PM
12.15 The Lord Of The Rings: The Two Towers
3.30 The Lord Of The Rings: The Return Of The King
7.10 The Lego Movie

TheStarsSay

Aries (March 21 - April 19)
Keep your activity to a minimum. Someone close needs your time or attention.

Taurus (April 20 - May 20)
Your energy is better spent as part of a team, so encourage others to join you.

Gemini (May 21 - June 20)
You need to take some downtime to find your centre or at least to catch your breath.

Cancer (June 21 - July 22)
Unknown topics energise you. Make sure you are looking in the right direction, though.

Leo (July 23 - Aug 22)
You need to keep your cool. It is likely that you will be the sole responsible adult in a certain situation soon.

Virgo (Aug 23 - Sept 22)
Make sure that people listen carefully and take steps to improve things over the next few weeks.

Libra (Sept 23 - Oct 22)
You should avoid shaking things up too much – your pressure only adds extra strife.

Scorpio (Oct 23 - Nov 21)
Play your hidden card, only if you find a way to ensure that everyone is aware of what is possible.

Sagittarius (Nov 22 - Dec 21)
It is a good time for deep thought. Clarity will help you to reach some important decisions by tonight.

Capricorn (Dec 22 - Jan 19)
You may discover a new kind of music or pick up an old instrument again. You need stimulation.

Aquarius (Jan 20 - Feb 18)
You need to re-examine your values, but make sure your people stay on your side.

Pisces (Feb 19 - March 20)
Things might be falling apart for others, but you can achieve something that will allow you to help them.

• Provided by Astrology.com (www.astrology.com)

Radio

KISS92

AM
6.00 Maddy, Jason & Arnold In The Morning
10.00 Carol Smith
PM
1.00 Charmaine Yee
4.00 Shan Wee
8.00 Josh's Goodnight Kiss

ONE FM 91.3

AM
6.00 ONE FM's #1 Breakfast Show With Glenn And The Flying Dutchman
10.00 Cheryl Miles
PM
4.00 Weekdays With ONE FM

MONEY FM 89.3

AM
6.00 The Breakfast Huddle With Elliott Danker, Yasmin Jonkers & Ryan Huang
10.00 Midday With Howie Lim
PM
2.00 Prime Time With Claressa Monteiro
4.00 The Curve With Michelle Martin & Bernard Lim

UFM100.3

AM
6.00 UFM100.3 Mornings With Wenhong, Limei & Xiaozhu
10.00 Lively Life With Kemlin
PM
1.00 Tea With Yuling
4.00 Sing-a-long With Xinying & Weilong
8.00 Feel The Night With Chengyao

96.3 HAO FM

AM
6.00 Morning Drive Time With Jing Yun, De Ming And Jie Qi
10.00 Lunch Break With Anna
PM
1.00 Automation
4.00 Evening Drive Time With Li Yi And Guo Xian
8.00 Night Time With Wei Wen

Tides

SUN RISE/SET TIME: 7:17am/7:21pm
MOON RISE/SET TIME: 8:12am/8:31pm

TIDES TODAY: Singapore: 12.48am (2.8m), 6.01am (1.4m), 11.52am (3m), 6.30pm (0.5m). Desaru: 12.30am (2.7m), 5.54am (1.7m), 11.11am (2.6m), 5.48pm (0.8m). Port Dickson: 2.01am (0.2m), 7.40am (2.5m), 2.33pm (0.4m), 8.14pm (2.m). Mersing: 6.04am (1.8m), 10.48am (2.5m), 5.19pm (0.9m).

TIDES TOMORROW: Singapore: 1.11am (2.8m), 6.33am (1.4m), 12.24pm (3.1m), 7.05pm (0.6m). Desaru: 12.52am (2.7m), 6.22am (1.6m), 11.50am (2.6m), 6.20pm (0.8m). Port Dickson: 2.34am (0.2m), 8.09am (2.5m), 2.57pm (0.3m), 8.38pm (2.5m). Mersing: 12.21am (3.2m), 6.29am (1.8m), 11.29am (2.5m), 5.50pm (1m).

For updates and more details, call Meteorological Service Singapore, NEA, on 6542-7788 or go to www.nea.gov.sg

